

English ROGUE;

O R,

Witty Extravagant:

Described in the LIFE of
MERITON LATROON.

CONTAINING,

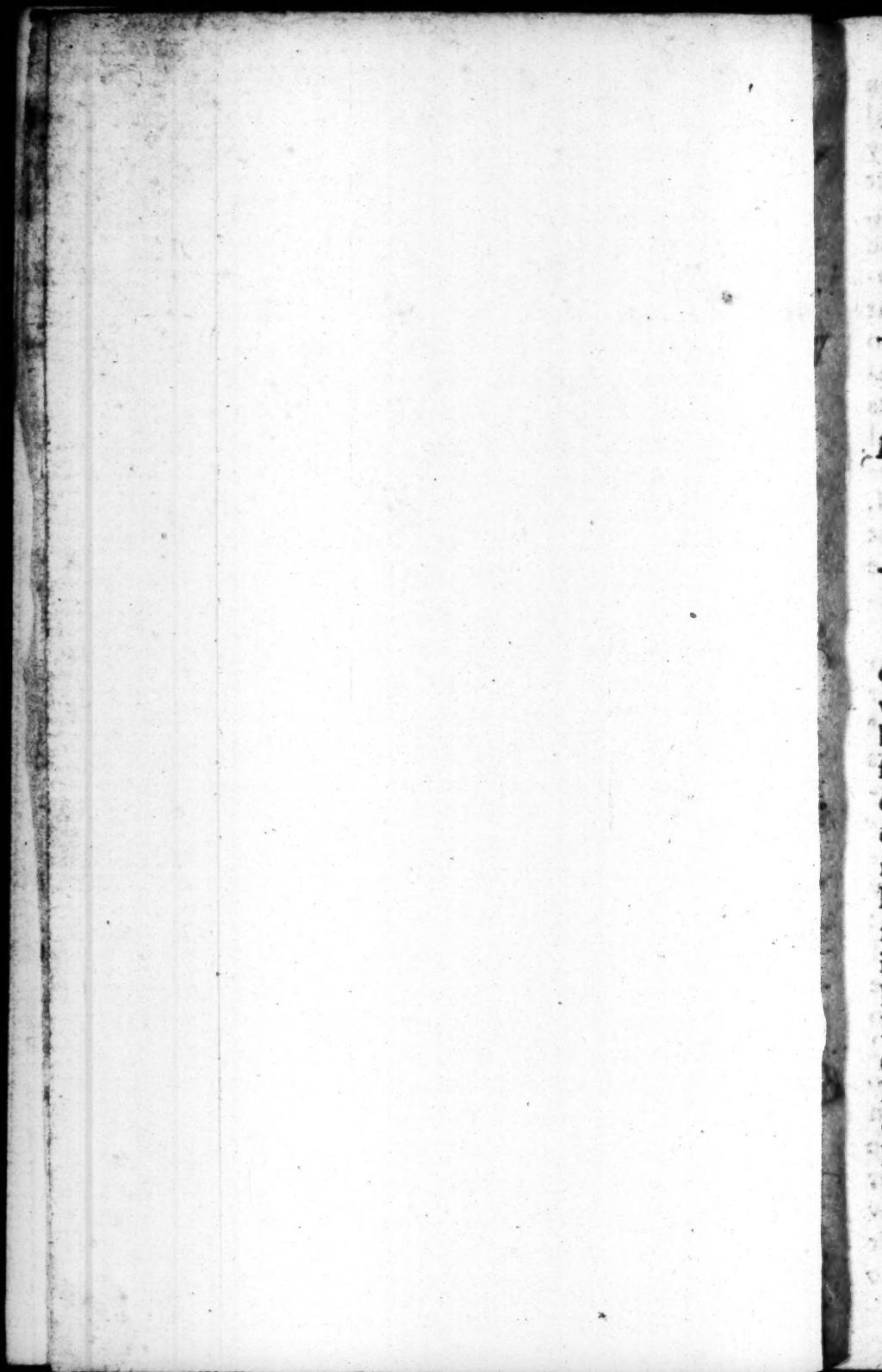
The Description of his Birth and Parentage.
His early Waggeries and more mature Villanies.
The Hardships and Punishments he endured: the
many Policies and Stratagems he invented to sup-
port himself: and the various Discoveries of
Cheats and Rogueries made by him. His many
Escapes from Danger: and the frequent Troubles
and Pressures of Mind he lay under for his wicked
Exploits. His many witty Expressions and Obser-
vations of Things and Matters. His Amorous
Discourses and Entertainment. And in fine, his
various Fortunes and Misfortunes through the
whole Course of his Life. With the eminent
Cheats and Artifices of either Sex laid open, as a
Warning to all Persons to shun the Mischiefs that
attend an evil Course of Life, &c.

*Read, but don't practise, for the Author finds,
They who live Honest have most quiet Minds.*

MUSEUM

L O N D O N.

Printed for HENRY WOODGATE, and SAMUEL
BROOKS at the Golden Ball, Paternoster-Row, 1759.



THE English ROGUE:

CHAP. I.

*He gives an Account of his Birth and Parentage, how
he robbed his School master, and upon being punish-
ed for it, run away and betook himself to Rambling.*

WHEN I had made a strict Enquiry after my Pedigree, I found myself, notwithstanding, at a loss, for Time had worn out the cognizances of my Ancestors; and what was most memorable was, that sundry of them had been Professors of the *Gentle-Craft*: as for my Grandfather, he had the good luck to arrive at the height of a Farmer, when confessing himself the Top of our Kindred, he one day, in an ambitious Mood, mounted one of his Mole hills, and protested by his Plow share, that his Eldest Son, my Father, should be a Schollard, and so far proceed in Learning, till he could perfectly Read and Write written-hand, for indeed it was not known to any that his Predecessors could distinguish one Letter from the other: however, my Father being of a winning Behaviour, when he came to grow up, became wonderfully the delight of the Females, and did not a little give himself up to practise the Art of making Love, and proceeded to many Extravagancies therein; notwithstanding, my Mother being then a Vir-

gin, young and unexperienced, fell desperately in Love with him, being much taken with his natural Parts, and preferring her Affection before the Duty to her Parents, she was married to him without their knowledge, yet brought a considerable Portion. But what can supply a boundless Extravagancy? he in a short time, by running into all manner of Profluseness and Disorder, consumed it, and by that means was forced to rack his Invention how to subsist: but before he fixed upon any thing considerable, my Mother was disburdened of the first Fruits of her Wedlock, and tumbled me, her hopeful Issue, into the World; being born in *Ireland*, whither my Father, by this time, had betaken himself, to avoid the Importunity of Duns; yet he had not been long there, before Death arrested him for the Debt due by Nature, and laid him up in the endless Durance of Eternity.

My Father being dead, my Mother returned to her Friends, and was very kindly received, after she had a little humbled her self for her former Transgressions. And I being now about five Years of Age, began to indulge myself in all the Waggeries my tender Years were capable of acting. I remember amongst other Pranks, we had a Turkey-Cock, that had a great spight at my red tammy Coat, and gave me many a brush upon that occasion; which put me upon studying Revenge, and long I was not e'er I effected it, for ticeing him to the Orchard-Gate, which fell too with a Pulley, he no sooner put his Head between that and the Post but I let it fall, and caught him by the Neck, and so having him fast, at an advantage, I dispatch'd him with my Catstick, that he was never after able to rise up against me. But our tedious lying upon our Friends made them begin to grumble and grow weary of our Company; which caused my Mother

to leave them, and cast her self upon Providence, so that we rambled a considerable Time from Place to Place; yet she, by reason of her prompt Wit and winning Behaviour, found every where tolerable Reception for us both: and at last coming to some Settlement, after she had taught me to read indifferently, she put me to a Grammar-School to be better instructed in Learning; where having a natural Itch at Roguery, I became at my first Arrival an extraordinary Bookworm, ever securing to my proper Use as many as Privacy would give me Opportunity of conveying away.

This Course I followed a long Time, which cost my School fellows severe Punishment for their Carelessness, as well by their Parents as Master: As for the Money thus gotten, I had various Uses, and especially to bribe those of a higher Form to make my Exercise, which made me appear more forward in Learning than indeed I was, and furthered my Opportunity to rob Orchards, and play many other Pranks; and indeed when by this means I was advanced to the highest Form, I did not well understand the lowest Author. As for Truanting, I was very much accustomed to it, and then wou'd I milk the Cows in my Hat, pluck the First and Second Quills of as many Geese as came in my way, and if I happened on any stragling Poultry I made sure Game of them.

When any of my School fellows, whom I durst not cope withal, by reason of their being too strong for me, had any ways affronted me, I ever studied till I had privately revenged it, either by strowing parched Pease on the Stairs, sticking Pins under their Seats, scattering cut Horse-hair in their Beds, or making them blot their Writing, for which they under-went the Discipline of the *Ferula* at least, and never let them know my Resentment till I had ef-

feſted my Revenge. But in the end, my Maſter diſcovering my defect of Learning, and that he had been deceived in me, he degraded me and turned me to the lower Form, which I ſo ſtomached that I prevailed with my too indulgent Mother to remove me to another School, which ſhe the rather conſented to, for that young as I was, I began to be rude with her Maid, putting her frequently to the ſqueak by ruſſing her, ſhe being a Girl not exceeding Fourteen Years of Age.

Being at my new School where I was entered a Boarder, and ſo had the Opportunity of coming Home but ſeldom; my Allowance being likewise ſhort, and I finding here no Receiver for what I happened at any time to ſteal, I was forced, for the better ſupplying my craving Appetite, to inſinuate my ſelf into the good opinion of the Cook-Maid, who helped me to many a dainty Morſel when the Reſt of my Associates went ſupperleſs, in a manner, to Bed: yet wanting Money to ſupply my Extravagancies, I was much diſcontented, and thereupon caſt about how I might come by it; and having perceived my Maſter to have a little Cabinet in his Chamber, into which likewise I had ſeen him put Money, I reſolved to make it my Prize, or the Money that was in it; but the Smith, upon my coming with the Impreſſion of my Maſter's Key in Wax to have a falſe One made, began to queſtion me, and looking ſo ſow'rly upon me as if he intended to apprehend me, I betook my ſelf to my Heels, and deſpairing afterward to do any good that way. I reſolved upon another, and ſo concealing my ſelf in the Chamber whilſt my Maſter was at his Study, upon his being called down and forgetting to lock the Door after him, it being then Evening. I ſlipped out with what I aimed at, and paſſing that Village undiscovered. I travelled all Night, and the next Morning found my

my self near another 16 Miles distant, where supposing my self secure, I betook me to a small Inn, and for my better Refreshment after so tedious a Journey, called for a Pint of Sack, being much taken up with the thoughts of my rich Booty, and how I should dispose of it; which whilst I was doing, and the People of the House were asking me several Questions, as whence I came, whither I was going, and what I had got, in came a Constable with a Hue and Cry in search of me, which dashed my budding Joys, and turn'd my Mountain into a Mole-hill, for both my self and my Treasure were secured; and what added more to my vexation was, that I was hurried away before I had Time to taste my Liquor.

Upon the News of what had happened, various were the Discourses of the People: This, says one, is a prime young Rogue to begin thus soon. Ay, says another, he would doubtless have stolen something out of his Mother's Belly if he could but have seen there. Well, says a third, it is an old saying, *Forward Fruit is soon Rotten*, &c. Whilst these Censures past upon me, and every old Woman in the Town had a fling at me, I was in a shaking fit almost ready to die for fear; however, I knew I must weather it: being in all haste carried back to my Master, he confined me to my Chamber till he had acquainted my Mother with the Prank I had played, and being loth to give me up to the Punishment of the Law, by reason of my tender Years, he undertook it himself, not only by shortning my Diet, but by giving me every Day a severe Whipping, and in the End so flead my Buttocks, that they were Strangers to the Skin that formerly cover'd them.

My Mother receiving advice of this my early piece of Thievery, soon arrived, and upon the first

sight of me was so impatient that she took the Rod my Master had been exercising a little before upon my *Podex*, and would needs correct me her self, but when she had uncased me and perceived how my tender Breech was Plowed and Harrowed, and my Shirt as stiff as Buckram with Blood, her Anger failed and she fell down in a Swoon, but by my Master's Help she recovered ; and he thereupon endeavoured to satisfy her how necessary it was to bend a Twig before it came to be a Tree, and that great Punishments were reserved for great Offences, and then proceeded to tell her of many Rogueries that I had played, as biting holes in the Boys Ears when upon their Backs, squirting indecently in his Face, playing Tricks with the Maids Ware, and almost blinding my Mistress with a Sir ——— which I dropped upon her Face out of the Casement as she was gauping upwards, firing a Pistol at a Cobler in his Stall, and at the same time discharging a squirt of Bullocks blood in his Face, which making him suppose he was shot through the Head, he fell down as dead with fear and could hardly be recovered ; with many the like Pranks, though not half that I had played, adding that he durst not keep me longer, for that my Abuses were such as had raised so many Complaints of the Country People that he was weary of hearing them, and therefore advised her to take me along with her. But whilst she was debating this matter, and not knowing well what to determine, I resolved to put an end to the controversy, and finding an Opportunity whilst she and my Master were in discourse, I sneaked down Stairs undiscovered, and getting into the Street betook myself to my Heels, resolving to throw my self upon Fortune, and ramble the wide World at a Venture.

*Thus head strong Folly rashly spurr'd me on,
With early Steps in haste to be undone,*

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

How he behaved himself in the beginning of his Rambles, and the fright he was in of being unexpectedly surrounded by a Company of Gypsies. How leaving them he betook himself to the Begging Trade. Of the Trick he served a Tinker and his Trull.

HAVING left my tender Mother in great perplexity, for a short Time I conceived it very pleasant to be thus at Liberty, the Summer season likewise favouring me with smiling Weather: So that Day I wandered up and down the Fields, taking pleasure to see the Harvest reaped and got in, and for want of other Provision I fed upon Blackberries, Corn Ears, and what else the Fields afforded me: but Night coming on, I began to bethink my self of a Lodging, and when I cast it in my mind, I plainly perceived I must forego a Down Bed for a Hay cock, and that Heavens Canopy must be my Coverlid, and soon I found out a Lodging of that kind, and wearied with sauntering about in the Day, I there fell asleep and waked not till Morning, and then I again began my wandering Progress, when in spite of all my former Resolutions, sad Thoughts came into my Mind, and I reflected not only upon the Grief I had left my Mother in, but upon my own Condition, that I was Rambling I knew not whither, without any Money or Friends, and above all Hunger began to pinch me, nor was the wild and raw diet I found on the Hedges any longer pleasant: but howsoever weathering that Day with some Discontent, I got the next Night into a Barn, which seemed somewhat more pleasant than my former Lodging, but scarce had I tumbled

over Head and Ears in Straw, but I heard a confusion of Voices which loudened and seemed to approach, and at that time the remembrance of Stories of *Fairies*, *Hobgoblins*, and *Robin good Fellows*, coming into my mind, put me into a fit of trembling, when immediately I was surrounded with human shapes still gabbling an unknown Language or Noise, at which, imagining that now was the time I should be punished for all my little Rogueries, I got upon my Knees and cry'd aloud, *Great God have mercy on me, and let not these Devils devour me*, and so bursting through the Gang I got clear of the Barn, but they imagining me to be some Spirit, or the Ghost of some murdered Person that haunted that Place, were in the same fear, and fell likewise to running, and I finding them, notwithstanding the speed I made, even at my Heels, fell on my Knees, and betook myself to Prayer, by which means they having Time to come near and flock about me, either of us were convinced of the mistake, and they perceiving me, by Moon light, to be a likely Lad, intreated me in the Language I understood, to go back with them, to which in this indigency I consented, and there they spent the Night partly in Drinking and Eating, for they had brought with them store of Provision, and partly in sleeping and dallying with their Morts and Doxies, which are in common amongst the Brotherhood.

Morning being come, for which I earnestly longed, they being roused by the *Patrico*, who is their Scribe to write their false Passes, &c. they very importunately demanded if I was content to accompany them, promising me many Advantages, and above the rest a brisk young Lass, one of their Company not exceeding 13 Years; which Allurements, in the Condition I was in, drew me to herd with them; whereupon they stripped me of my Cloaths, and pinned

ned and tacked so many Rags about me, as served to cover my Nakedness, and rubbed over my Face and Hands with the green Husks of Walnuts; insomuch that I was strangely metamorphos'd in a moment, as well in Colour as in Apparel.

Being thus accoutred, and having well refreshed my self, I prepared to follow my Leaders, our whole ragged Regiment consisting of about sixty Persons old and young, for it seems this was a general Meeting; and least so great a Company should be troublesome to it self, or give offence to the Country, we were ordered into three Divisions, each Division being commanded to stick up small Boughs by the way at divers turnings, that each Company might be at a certain, in taking several ways, not thereby to follow or intrench upon each other, each *Doxy* carrying a Child at her Back, and perhaps another in her Arms, though for ease each Company had Horses or Asses to carry the Children upon them; some of us were Antickly clad like Morrice-Dancers with Bells to allure the Country People about them.

As for our Pretences when we had gotten any number of People together in a Market or Village, they were, That we were Allied to the *Ægyptian Magi*, and that we sucked in the Knowledge of the Stars with our Milk, and that we were familiar with Fate and Destiny, by which we possessed the ignorant People with a real Belief that we could tell their Fortunes by inspecting their Hands or Faces, and whilst with a set Form of Words we were mumbling somewhat to 'em, one of our Gang seldom failed, if not to pick their Pockets, at least, to get something of Value from them, and by asking the silly Wenches and Fellows Questions, we gathered the properest Resolutions from their own Mouths; then wou'd they fall into admiration and wonder,

trembling at the same time to hear the truth of their Affairs proceed from the Mouths of Strangers, by which means we gained in many places a great Respect, accompanied with fear. And thus we rambled up and down the Country, nor did the Pigs, Lambs, Geese, Ducks, or any thing of the like kind, escape us, our Cook-Room, and Dining-Room being commonly a Furzy Heath or a Gravel-pit, and our Lodging-Rooms the Barns or Out-houses of small Villages, nor did we lie down without good store of strong Liquor, and a Canting-Song or two. But in the end grown weary with the tedious Rambles of my old Masters and Dames the Gypsies, I resolved to betake my self to a slenderer Company, and thereupon had the Happiness to stumble upon an old Mumper skilled in the whole mystery, and of him I learned to tune my Voice to a strain that was most likely to move Compassion, acquainting me what places were fittest for the purpose, with the Times and Seasons, directing me when I should be importunate and when I should desist, ever wishing well to the Lives, Healths and Estates of such as gave me nothing, that it might not be a discouragement to them to give me another time, or at least to some other of our Profession, and to those that gave he ordered me to pronounce aloud, *God bless you Master, and let Heaven reward you for what you have done on Earth, &c.* and that if any pitying my tattered Condition should give me good Cloaths, I should sell them as soon as out of the Donor's sight, and still keep to my Rags; having the right Art of making all kind of seeming Sores and pretensions of Lameness to move Compassion, ever observing if we went in Couples, not to beg far asunder, being sure to be up early in the Morning, that People might imagine my Lodging had been

been under a Stall or a Bulk all Night, and so have the more pity on me.

Being furnished with these and the like Instructions, we resolved upon our intended Progress, but at the first Dash we were seized by a Constable, as two sturdy wandering Vagrants, and whipped through a Market Town; but my Comrade gave me many Words of Comfort to keep me from being out of Conceit with my new Profession. We passed on till we found a Tinker and his Trull sleeping under a Hedge by the Road, these we waked and demanded why they lay sleeping in such a publick Place, to which they replied, They had been bitten by a Serpent, a potent Creature, mighty of Strength and of a vast Proportion, which put me in no little fear or wonder; but my Comrade understanding the Riddle, intreated them to rise and shew us his Cave, which accordingly they did, and what should it be but an Ale-house, the Sign of the Serpent, where they had humming Liquor, and into this Place, when we had first shewed our Money, we were admitted, and drank so hard till our new Acquaintance fell again to sleep, nor was I less than three parts gone, which my Comrade seeing and having a Design upon the Tinker, he, to make me sober, held me up by the Heels with my Head in a Pail of Water to the Eyes, which cooling my Brain brought me much again to myself; which done, we ransacked their Pockets, and found about the Woman a considerable Parcel of Money, and some about the Man, whereupon we stuck his Girdle round with Tobacco-pipes, fastening likewise to it two Flaggons and a Chamber pot; as for the Woman we fastened her Coats to the Chair she sat in and so departed: when soon after, mine Host hearing no noise came into the Room, and finding us missing, waked the Tinker and Doxy, and acquainted

quainted them with our Departure, which unexpected News made them start up between sleep and wake, and haste out of Doors to pursue us, as doubting the worst, not minding how we had hampered them, which made the People in the Street imagine they were distracted, and my Host perceiving his Household stuff dangling at their Breeches, the Tinker running like one that was Dancing the mad Morrice with Low-Bells about him, and his Trull like a Tortoise with a Penthouse upon her Back, he cryed out stop Thief, and thereupon some Persons who were upon the Road, laid hold of them and brought them back again, by which means we had time to escape and made directly for *London*, where within few Days we arrived.

Passing through *London* we halted to *Kentstreet*, where my Comrade told me there was to be a great Assembly of the Profession, as indeed it fell out, and there we feasted after a splendid manner, neither Wine, Musick, nor any costly Provision being wanting; and there I was adopted into the Ragged Fraternity, who changed the Name the Gypsies had given me to another more suitable to their own Cant, and so after a sumptuous Repast we all kenneled together Males and Females promiscuously, and early in the Morning each prepared for his Station, having before made them sore Legs and Arms with unslackened Lime, Rust of Iron and Soap, which by being bound on for a short time makes the Skin come off, rendering the place raw, and looking as if it were mortified, and that they may look black and blue they rubb'd the Places with Ox's Blood and Indico, which dried and baked on makes their Condition appear very deplorable to the Spectators, yet if these Sores be not kept raw with continual Corrosives, they will heal of themselves in two or three Days.

Thus

Thus prepared with Crutches and bound up Legs, we repaired with dirty Cloths about our Heads to *Moor fields*, and planted our selves at a distance from each other, to catch each others Maundings at the first rebound : as for my part I cou'd not keep my Eyes off my Comrade, and had much ado to refrain from Laughter, to see how to the Life he counterfeited himself Lame, and how he being about to lie down he slid to the Earth with his Staff, and then made a hundred distorted Faces as if his Pain had been intolerable, thereby to move Compassion in those that passed by ; and to increase it he set up a piteous Tone, to which I could not for a long time frame my self, which made him when none observed him hold up his Crutch at me, thereby signifying he was displeased at my being no better a Proficient, which made me strain my Lungs to some purpose.

Night being come, we packed up our Awls in order to haste to our Rendezvous, there to be merry with our Gettings, but as ill Luck would have it, coming along by a Butcher's Shop, a dainty piece of Beet hung in my way, which I decently convey'd from off the Hook ; but being spied by a Shop-keeper standing in his Shop over the Way, he cryed after me in such a manner that I was soon taken, and so implacable was my Accuser, that she made me carry my piece of Thievery through the Streets to the Justices, where I having nothing to say in defence of my self, the Fact being plain against me, my *Mistimus* was made and I sent to be invellied with a Stone Doublet, but my Comrades perceiving me to be in the Brambles rubbed off.

*Thus the bad practice of my younger Years
Brought either Punishment or daily Cares.*

C H A P. III.

How he was Whipped and Released, and falling again to the Begging Trade he was taken notice of by a Citizen and entertained by him as a Servant. How he Trappan'd the Maid to Virginia.

Long I had not lain in Prison, but I was brought to my Tryal, and being found guilty only to the value of Ten-pence, my Punishment was to shove the Tumbler, which made me dance like a Squirrel in a Cage. My Punishment being over a charitable Gentlewoman who came to release such as lay only for their Fees, set me at Liberty, but whither to go I knew not, especially to be entertain'd, therefore I thought it was best whilst I could better provide for my self, to follow my old Trade of Begging; and now as if Heaven had a peculiar Kindness for me, it so happened as I was a Begging, that a worthy Citizen came by, and casting his Eyes upon me, took at the first View a great Liking to me, and bid me follow him. I accordingly waited on him Home at some Distance, proposing to my self, if it had been any matter of Kidnapping, to have given him the slip, but seeing him enter a stately House with a Shop well furnished, I made a Halt at the Door till he called me in and presented me to his Wife, who at the sight of me blest her self, saying, Prithee Sweetheart from what Dunghill didst thou pick up this Ragmation? to which he replied, Dear Wife, be contented, seeing it is my pleasure that it shall be so, and make no further enquiry into the matter; and thereupon he commanded me to strip and wash my self, which I did with such materials as were provided for me by the Maid-servants, and soon

soon became exceeding white and clear, insomuch that being clad in good Apparell, the whole Family wondered at the sudden alteration; and from that time my Mistress began to create in herself a good opinion of me, nor was I wanting in my Diligence, to please each Individual, appertaining to the Family, that in a short time I gained the good word of all; which my Master perceiving, advanced me in Business by degrees, and at last made me his Accountant and Cash keeper, and if I had continued faithful in that Station it had been well for me: But long I had not enjoyed this Benefit but I was by a Neighbour's Man enticed into a Gang of young Apprentices, who held Night Revels, purloined away their Masters Goods, by way of Barter amongst themselves, there being one of every considerable Trade, nor were Wenches (that Bane of Youth) wanting, their Feasting and Drinking being even to the height of Luxury and Riot, and these Meetings were generally once a Week, and to be at this Club or Meeting I was obliged to be in Fee with our Chamber-Maid: not only in presenting her with such Things as I there got in Exchange for my Goods, but in pretending to be deeply in Love with her, often wishing that I was out of my time, if for nothing more than to requite her Kindness, by Marriage; by which means she was altogether at my Devotion, sitting up after she had sent the rest of the Servants to Bed to wait my Return, and so it happened that one Night, being got merry, I was resolved to try what Temper she was made of, yet had so much discretion of thinking it was best to accost her when in Bed; but she lying up Stairs on the same Floor with my Master and Mistress, and my Head being Light, I reeled into my Master's Chamber, mistaking it for that of the Maid's, and with a soft Voice cryed, Where art, my Dear; which

which my Mistress hearing, and knowing it to be me, for my Master was dead asleep by reason of a large Dose he had taken that Evening, cryed in a like Tone, here here; which soft sound directed me to the Bed side, where I poured out my Amorous Expressions, and taking her about the Neck, kissed her with such ardent Affection that she had much ado to disengage her self, and then hasting to undress my self hold, said she, I have a Bed fellow already, what I have suffered you to do was only as a Tryal to know what you intended, get you gone to your own Bed for this Night, and I shall talk with you to morrow: whereupon in much confusion I retreated, and sneaked down Stairs, getting to Bed but could not take any rest that Night.

Morning being come, up I got, remembering more perfectly what had happened, and fearing every Moment my Mistress had made it known to my Master, whose Rage in this Case I feared, I was in a thousand Quondaries whether I had best stay or betake my self to flight: but whilst I was musing upon the matter, my Mistress having left my Master in Bed, came down into the Shop, at whose sight I was in great confusion, making a hundred pretences to stoop behind the Counter to rectify disordered Ware; of which confused Bashfulness she taking notice, came up to me, and said, indeed you take too much pains, you are too industrious, fair and softly goes far, there is a great while to Night yet, therefore desist a little, I must have a Word or two with you; hearing her speak thus mildly when I expected nothing but Reproach, I presumed to look up, and finding her smile upon me, I began to make my Excuse for what had passed, intreating her to pardon my Innocence, telling her that my Design was not upon herself, neither would I have dar'd to have presum'd what I did,

did, had it not been by mistake : at this she renew'd her Smiles, and gathering from my words that there was some more than ordinary Intrigue between the Maid and my self, she pressed me so much that I was forced to confess it, upon which she changed Colour, but after a little pausing, composing her self, she said she must desire me to withdraw my Affection from her Maid, since her Resolution was to separate us by dismissing her ; and that if I needs must Love, I ought to elect a Person whose Merit being grounded on Beauty, Birth and Wealth might render me far more happy ; soon after the Maid was turned away and with much Regret took her leave of me, desiring me to be constant, which I promised with many dissembled Protestations.

My Mistress now began to favour me more than ever, under whose Protection I took greater Liberty than formerly, continuing still my Night Adventures, for my Master being generally of a drowsy Temper, I feared not to take the Key along with me, knowing if it was discovered my Mistress would excuse my fault. But now in the height of my jollity a cross Accident happened that had like to have spoiled all ; there had been some Civilities more than civilly tender'd and carried on between my self and the Maid my Mistress turned away, and she by this time finding herself with Child, sent secretly to advertize me of it, and to request me for the saving of her Reputation to marry her e'er it was too far gone ; I sent her words of Comfort, promising to do whatever was for her good, but withal persuaded her to retire a little into the Country to her Friends, and let them know her Husband was an Apprentice, and that it was not yet convenient to declare her Marriage, and I would send her down not only Money, but all convenient Necessaries, but charged her withal to conceal my Name
and

and the Place of my Abode, and when she was delivered come up again, and then we would tie the lasting Knot. To this, with some Reluctancy she yielded, and I kept my word as to my making Provision for her, thinking that if the Child died I could easily shift her off to Service: but the contrary happening, it was not long e'er she came with it to *London*, there to claim my promise of Marriage, this caused me to consider many things, and cast in my mind many ways how to rid my Hand of her and the Kinchin, and at last I effectually pitched upon one, which was, to send them both for a Venture.

To effect my design, I told her one Day, that having a Rich Uncle in *Virginia*, I intended for her Credit's sake and my own to go thither, being sure to be highly welcomed, shewing her some Letters I had forged, as of his sending for me to be the Supervisor of his Plantation, with many large offers, praising to the Sky the Fruitfulness of the Soil and pleasantness of the Country: at first she bogled at my proposals, on the account of her Child, whose Tendernefs would not endure such a Voyage; but I still pressing it, threatening to leave her and go my self if she refused to accompany me; she, after shedding some Tears, yielded to be at my disposal; so carrying her on Board, having before-hand dealt with the Master of the Ship for that purpose, I accompanied her till the Danger of any Search was over, and then pretending to go on Shore for my Trunk, which I had purposely left for an Excuse, the Ship instantly set Sail, and I returned to *London*.

C H A P. IV.

How he enticed away a Neighbour's Apprentice, and betook himself again to ramble. The Trick he served his Companion, and what more Mischievous betell himself.

ARriving at *Billingsgate*, I halted to a Tavern where the Drawer was my intimate Acquaintance; and here I consulted, by reason I had been absent a Day and a Night, whether I had best return to my Master or take my Ramble, and having my Pockets well lin'd it was not long a determining, for I soon concluded on the latter, and not designing to ramble alone, I took my opportunity to send for a Neighbouring Apprentice, who had often proposed to me what I now determined, and acquainted him with my Intentions; at which he first, though he had formerly been very forward to persuade me to a wandering Progress, bogled, alledging the Disappointment it would give his Master, and the Trouble that it would consequently heap upon his Friends; but I soon removed these Scruples, telling him a thousand pleasant Stories of my former Adventures to intice him thereto, who being of an easy Capacity soon consented to be governed by my Directions.

Having by this means prevailed with my Novice to accompany me in my Rovings, I forgot not strictly to order him not to come empty-handed, which he so far complied with, that I was not a little amazed to see how much Treasure he brought, it not amounting to less than 200*l.* which we soon concluded to turn into Gold, for the more easy Carriage; and the better to prevent Discovery

changed

changed our Apparel; and now our main Business was to study for suitable Recreations, yet the fear of being discovered somewhat pall'd our Pleasures, so that lurking in the Out skirts of *London*, our business all Day was Tipling and Gaming, and when Darkness had manied this Part of the World, then we would boldly walk abroad, taking great delight to hire Hackney-Coaches, and when we came near the Place proposed to set us down, we used to give the Coach man the slip, by opening the Door and making our Escapes, when one time attempting it, my Cloak, by a sudden Swing, hung in the Spokes of the Wheel, and by its Motion still wound itself in more and more, which obliged me to unbutton it, lest my Person should have been executed upon the Wheel, and although Lackey like I followed the Coach a considerable time, in hopes it would drop off, yet seeing there was no other Remedy, I was obliged to call to the Coach-man to stop, who perceiving what had been intended, after having demanded his Money, which I was forced to give him e'er he would disentangle my Cloak, he told me it would not look like a Livery till it was laced, and thereupon gave me several Lashes, which made me caper like an *Irish* Morrice Dancer, at which my Companion that stood at a distance, and had been a Spectator of what had passed, laughed heartily; for which, though I said little at that time, I was even with him soon after.

Being baulkt at this kind of mischievous Recreation, our next was, when we found Old Watch-men nodding at their Stands to make Foot-balls of their Lanthorns: but one Night being a little Flustered, and mistaking a young Man for an old one, by taking his Neckcloth that hung down for his white Beard with two peeks, he started up and soon overtook us, and more of his Fellow Watch-men coming

ing to his Assistance, we were carried before the
 Constable, who hearing the Complaint of his Jani-
 zary against us, we that Night had by his order a
 Lodging provi ed for us in the Compter, where
 our greatest fear was that our Masters should find
 us out; but spending the Night in Tipling and Day
 appearing, we were carried before a Justice of Peace,
 who after a severe Reprimand cleared us, we paying
 our Fees.

Being freed from this Danger, one Night my
 Comrade and I passed by a stately House, where a
 very handsome seeming Gentlewoman standing in
 the Door way sumptuously attired, dropped me a
 Curtzy, giving me at the same time an Amorous
 leer and a look, with half a Face, which sort of
 silent Language I being no ways ignorant of, made
 up to her, and accosted her with a profound Re-
 verence, whereupon she invited us into a very fair
 Room, entreating us to sit down, and called (with-
 out being desired) to her Servants to bring in some
 Bottles of Wine, taking us by our Garbs, which
 were very Rich, to be no less than Persons of Qua-
 lity, intending to make us pay at no common rate
 for this Favour.

Having passed a Glass or two about, she called
 for her Lute, and sung to it melodiously; which,
 together with the Wine, which indeed was very
 strong, after a little Nodding, cast my Companion
 into a profound sleep. And now the thoughts of
 his Laughing at me when the Coach-man laced me,
 and the design I had to be alone with my new Mi-
 stress, put me into a serious consideration, how I
 should get rid of him: but long I had not cudgel'd
 my Brains for an Invention, before it came into my
 mind to send him home to his Master, which I did
 by the Approbation of my Mistress, by putting him
 into a Porter's Basket, after I had privately ris'd
 his

his Pockets, telling the Porter he was such a Gentleman's Son, bidding him only put him in at the Shop-door and make what haste away he could, least he should be examined from whence he brought him, and upon his return I would plentifully reward him ; all which was performed exactly to my Wish.

How he came off I know not, for I never heard of him after : Being, according to my Wish, rid of my Companion, after many excuses, I won my Mistress to suffer me that Night to be her private Companion, yet she delayed going to Bed till it was early in the Morning, telling me there would be time enough for our mutual Recreation, which indeed proved very unpleasant, for we were scarce laid down before three Fellows in Vizors burst open the Chamber-door and entered it, at which my Mistress leaped out of Bed and gave a kind of a soft Screech, as fearing to be heard, and thereupon they seized, bound and gagged her, then coming to me they wrapped me up in the Bed-cloaths, and drew me, Bed and all upon the Floor, which although it gave me a damnable squalch, yet I lay as still as a Mouse in a Cheese, till I heard them talk of throwing the Bed over the Balcony to their Companions, and then, fearing to have my Neck broke, I cried out so loud that they seeming scared at my Roaring, took up my Cloaths, and with them by a Rope fastened to the Balcony slipped down into the Street.

By this time hearing all still, I had courage enough to put my Head out, and perceiving they were all gone, I got up and fell to feeling for my new Mistress, it being very dark by reason of their having put the Candles out, and soon I found her by running my Finger into her Mouth, which indeed at first I thought had strayed, but perceiving (by the Teeth I found there) I was mistaken, I took
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the boldness to remove the Gagg thence, untying likewise her Hands and Feet, upon which she began to enquire of my welfare; to which I replied I had received no harm, (not knowing then that my Gold and Cloaths were conveyed away) whereat she seemingly rejoiced; yet when she brought a Light, and I perceiving my Cloaths and Treasure had taken their flight together, I stood like one Thunder-struck for a while; and having a little recovered my Senses, I cryed out I was utterly undone, at which she shewed much seeming sorrow, though indeed the whole Plot was of her own contriving, and I thereupon asking her what I must do in this naked condition, she ingeniously told me she had no Man's Apparel, but with such as she had she would furnish me, and thereupon fetched me a very decent Suit of her own, with all Appurtenances thereto belonging; and although this seemed very odd and strange, yet Necessity urged me to accept it; and being washed, and dressed at all points, by reason of my Youth I appeared to be a very likely young Gentlewoman, and was at the first view in the Glass, wonderfully taken with my Garb: but my Money being gone, my Mistress, with many Complements, perswaded me to leave her House, and go in search of new Adventures; and being about to take my leave, I unadvisedly, thinking I ought still to pull off my Hat, instead of a Courtzy layed hold of my Hood, but she ordered me to be careful in that, till I had an opportunity to change my Garb, and so with a dissembling Kiss dismissed me, only with an Angel in my Pocket, which she might well afford out of one hundred Pieces of Gold; which of my own and my Comrades I gave her and lost in her House, and of which she afterwards undoubtedly had the greatest share.

Being again upon the Ramble, I took a strict

Survey of the Houses that promised good Entertainment; and at last found a Bill upon a Door, where I enter'd and ask'd for a Lodging, for which I soon agreed, pretending I was just come out of the Country in the Stage-Coach, and that my Trunk and Servants were not yet arrived: whereupon, passing for a Person of no mean Quality, I had no small Respect shewed me, especially by a young half-witted Gentleman, that had more Money than Understanding, who lodged in the House; in-somuch, that mistaking my Sex, he became passionately enamoured of me, so that he not only treated me, and gave me a Gold Watch; but offering to be rude with me, and I, by that means, being fearful of being discovered, resolved to make up my Market with him, and so bid him adieu; when finding him in a merry humour, amidst his many proffers of Favours and Service, I told him that indeed as affairs stood, it was not altogether out of his Power to oblige me, for that I had been hitherto disappointed of Moneys out of the Country, and therefore for a present Supply, required him to lend me ten Pounds for two or three Days, at which time my Trunk, &c. would infallibly arrive: glad of this opportunity, away flew my Novice to his Chamber, and instantly brought the Sum, protesting he was mightily obliged to me, forasmuch as I would accept of any Thing that was in his Power to serve me: and so pretending private Business in the City, I called a Coach, fully resolving to return no more to my Lodging; and although my Amourist was very pressing to wait upon me, yet alledging my Business required Privacy, I put him off.

C H A P. V.

How he, in Female Disguise, was hired in the nature of a Servant-maid to a Boarding School. The Frolick he played there, with the Maid of the House and young Gentlewomen.

Being a little recruited with Money, causing the Coach-man, for some time, to drive sundry by-ways that I might not be dogg'd, I alighted, and paying him his Hire dismissed him: After which I went to a Sale Shop and bought a decent Suit of Apparel, pretending it to be for my Servant Maid, with all other things requisite, resolving to try some Adventure in a Female Garb, seeing I had hitherto been successful; and being fitted with all other necessities for that Purpose, I sold my other Apparel for double the price of that I purchased, and betook me to an old Woman who helped Maids to Services, who was not a little glad of my coming, since a little before, the Mistress of an adjacent Boarding-School had spoken to her for a likely Maid, and having given her Fee, she soon introduced me, and I not standing upon Wages, but pretending rather a willingness to be taught and instructed. My Mistress commanded the Wenches, who laughed at my Awkwardness, to instruct me; so that being of a prompt Genius, I soon learned to manage the Kitchen Affairs, so that the Chamber-Maid going away, I succeeded her in her Place, and a very handsome, lively brisk Wench was hired into my Place or former Station; who, in a short Time after her coming, I found to be very uneasy in her Mind, so that one Night being in Bed with her, I pressed her to declare the cause of her continual

tumbling

tumbling and tossing about, and soon understood that the Cause proceeded from Love ; and finding, that she resolved with the first opportunity to give herself up to the Embraces of her Lover, I thought it now a fit time to discover my Sex, and to her no small Amazement, gave her such satisfaction, that from that time she doated on me, and followed me about [like my shadow, insomuch that the Work being neglected, and my Mistress in the end perceiving it, turned her away, at which I was rather pleased than discontented, for having variety of handsome young Gentlemen, who boarded in the House, I under my Female Disguise soon gained my Ends of most of them. But long I had not this Freedom, before I discovered a strange alteration in sundry of them, and finding by their Qualms and Pewkings that it was time for me to be packing. I one Evening got my Mistresses Son's Suit of Cloaths, and all materials belonging to it, and thereby assuming my proper Habit, I left my Service without asking for my Wages, marching through all the By-ways imaginable, till I came to an Ale-house where I had formerly been acquainted, and there I happened upon a former Comrade of mine, who in the sequel you will find, was in a worse Condition than myself:

This youngster being an Apprentice, and having a very beautiful Woman to his Mistress, mistaking her Smiles and kind Words for an extraordinary Passion towards him, grew mightily enamoured of her, which he took occasion at her Country-house, whither he was sent by his Master to wait upon her, to let her know, telling her that her Love he esteemed above all Worldly Felicity, and that without enjoying her he must be miserable ; to which she gave Ear with a smiling Countenance, telling

telling him that within three Days he should have a suitable Answer to his Demands, desiring him, in the mean time, to return and betake himself to the Business of his Trade; and accordingly, the third Day she came to her *London-House*, which made our Youngster tickle himself with hopes his expectations would be answered to his Hearts wish; and when he heard her at Supper pretend an Indisposition and desirous to lie alone, he could scarce contain his Joy from breaking out into a discovery; and the more, when she privately told him he might come to her Chamber about Twelve, where the Door should be purposely left open for his Reception.

Our Youngster thus heightned in his Expectation of enjoying his fair Mistress, thought no space so tedious as this, imagining the Wheels of Time run backward, and that every Minute was an Hour; yet at length the time came, and up Stairs he trips, as softly as if he had trod on Eggs, when coming to her Bed side, having one Foot in, whilst he was pouring out his amorous Expressions, his Master, whom she had acquainted with the whole Story, fell upon his Posteriors (he being then in his Shirt) with a Hand-whip, that perceiving, after a considerable number of Lashes how finely he was fooled, he made but one step half down Stairs, tumbled down the rest, and afterwards down another pair, his Master still following him in the Rear to spur him on, till weary with heating him, he ordered him to go to Bed: But long he had not been there, but getting his Cloaths he made his Escape out at the Window, dreading the Consequence of th next Day, more than any other hazard that might befall him.

With this Youngster, condoling his misfortune, I spent the Night, and finding his Cloaths where tolerably

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lerably good; the next Morning I persuaded him to change with me, that it might prevent discovery upon Enquiry after him; which he for a small parcel of Money to boot did. But no sooner had we made this Exchange, e'er those that were upon the search for me, came in with a Constable, and knowing the Cloaths better than my Features, they seized upon my Youngster, who had them on his Back, telling him at the same time that he should severely smart for the wrong he had done his Mistress in abusing her House; whereupon he fell upon his Knees full of Trembling, beseeching them, with abrupt stammerings, not to carry him to his Mistress; for he well knew he had so highly offended her, that she would have no Mercy on him. Yet deaf to his Entreaties, away they hailed him without Bail or Main-prize: which I perceiving, and knowing they had taken the wrong Gander, payed the Reckoning, and sneaked out at the back-door.

Having thus narrowly escaped a Danger, I wandered up and down in divers Places in hopes to find some Adventure, or at least to find some of my old Companions, but failing in both, my Stock began to be extream low, and at last was altogether exhausted, so that having neither Money nor Friends I began with the Prodigal, to think it would be best to return to a settled Life, if I could be accepted, and regain my Master's Favour: however, I concluded that if he denied me I would so husband my Stock that it should last me till I should further advantage myself. And not having forgot my Mistress's Kindness towards me, I knew my Application came to her Ear she would be my Advocate; whereupon I wrote a very submissive Letter, accusing myself of Folly, and promising future Amendment, which so wrought upon my good

good natur'd Master, that he without delay gave order to the Letter-bearer to bring me to him, when accordingly I went, being by this time well Habited, and was received with much Joy, especially of my Mistress, who in a tender manner chid me for leaving my Master, and especially for taking myself from her Presence.

C H A P. VI.

How he behaved himself after his Reception, and how his Mistress received him into her private Favour.

BEing thus re-instated, to requite my Master's Kindness, I used double Diligence, altogether renouncing the Company of my Brother Snipers, as resolving now to snip by myself, growing seemingly Religious, the better to set a good Face upon my pretended Reformation; whilst my Mistresses Eyes were more and more fixed upon me, and she endeavoured, by all the dumb Signs and Tokens, which are accounted the silent Languages of Love, to let me know she had a more than ordinary Passion for me; yet she perceiving me dull, or at least not willing to understand her, she came to the Counting-house one Day, where I was Writing, and leaning upon my Shoulder, asked me what I was doing? nothing, said I, but Writing. Nothing I believe, replied she, nor never will do any thing but draw up Blanks, without ever filling up the Spaces, and so abruptly left me, to gather from it what I thought convenient, nor was I such a Novice but I soon understood the meaning.

Soon after my Mistress thinking I could not be altogether a stranger to her Desires, pretending to

go abroad to visit a Gentlewoman that lay sick, got leave of my Master for me to wait upon her, and though I led her, yet I wondered not a little whither she was leading me ; for we passed through a great number of by-Alleys and Lanes, till we came to the Water side : at what time she bid me call for the next Oars, and so putting off, she order'd the Water-men to row for *Fox-hall*, where Landing, we went directly to the *Spring Garden*, and there betook ourselves to one of Love's secret Alcoves, where my Mistress freely declared, how from the first time she saw me she had a deep Affection for me, and although she strove with herself all she could to suppress it by objecting our Difference in Age and Condition, yet it more and more prevailed, and she was no longer able to resist the prevailing Passion, charging me at the same time not to slight her at any time for her free Confession, nor that the Favours she shou'd bestow upon me should puff me up with Pride, but to be constant in making her suitable Returns of Love as I tender'd my future Tranquillity, and would avoid the effects of an injur'd Lover's Revenge. This and a great deal more she urged, to which I answered that she so highly obliged me, by casting her Favour of this Kind upon me, that I must now make it the chiefest Business of my Life to do her Service, vowing a lasting Constancy and Fidelity ; and so after many Caresses and Love Endearments, she melted in my Arms, and I making use of that opportunity, gave her the satisfaction she required. And so having plentifully feasted our Senses with Banquetting and Delight, we returned home.

C H A P. VII.

How being his Master's Cash keeper he was inticed by Clippers, and how he rejected them. Their Tragical End, &c. How he broke his Master and betrayed him to a Prison, where he died. And how his Mistress died for Love of him, &c.

BEING thus in Favour with my Mistress, I proceeded to the excess of Extravagancy, keeping my Brace of Geldings at Livery, and had at the place of my Rendezvous, several Changes of Apparel to prevent discovery; and for all this I laid up some good store of Coin, as imagining this Sun shine could not always last; so that being perceived, in some Places I frequented, to be full of Money, a 'Prentice with whom I kept Company, undertook with a Clipper, that had narrowly marked it, to bring me acquainted with him, and accordingly he did, but I who had no mind to be hanged, refused utterly to deal with him, though he laid many seemingly advantages before me.

Soon after, I heard that my new Acquaintance with divers of his Accomplices were taken, tryed, found guilty and Executed, and a Fellow that had seen me with him, and was a hanger on to the Gang, came to me and in private told me, that in Love he came to inform me that I had been taken notice of for a notorious disperse of clipped and counterfeited Money, and that there was a Warrant out against me: but perceiving he brought me this seeming kind Advice only to fright me out of a spill of Money, I did not suffer him to go away unrewarded, but buffeted him till he bore the marks of my Displeasure, and so I heard of him

no more. And now my Profuseness began to make my Master's stock bend till both Ends began to meet, and his Creditors grew so clamorous that he durst not appear publickly, which I perceiving, and knowing he could not hold out long, resolved to push him on to ruin; and so hiring a private Warehouse, I conveyed as opportunity would give me leave, his best Goods thither: and now being terrified with the fear of a Prison, he consulted with me what was to be done, and although I advised him to stay and compound with his Creditors, yet he at last resolved to pack up his Goods that remained, and take my Mistress with him to *Ireland*; the last word so sensibly affrighted me, that I could not choose but let fall some Tears, which he thinking I did to condole his Misfortune, his Tears trickled down his Cheeks to bear mine Company: and well, said he, now I see thou lovest me as well as thou hitherto hast served me faithfully.

My loathness to part with my Mistress, whom indeed I loved entirely as a Mistress, put my Intention upon the wrack how to stop his Journey, and finding but one way to do it, I got the exact time of his Departure by the means of my Mistress, and acquainted his chief Creditor with it, who waited where he was to take Horse for *West-Chester* before Day; and just as his Foot was in the Stirrup presented him with a brace of Serjeants, who conveyed him to the Counter, from whence, (finding no possibility of compounding his Business,) he removed himself with a *Duce facias* to *Ludgate*, and from thence, through Grief, Death brought a *Habeas Corpus*, and removed him into the other World.

My Master being thus dead, and I having furnished me a Shop with his Money and part of the Goods I had purloyned away, my Mistress brought

me the remainder that she had saved from the Knowledge of the Creditors, and so we lived together till she found herself with Child, and then she earnestly pressed me, for the saving of her Credit, to marry her; but still I put it off with divers Excuses, for although I loved her, yet I loved her not well enough for a Wife. But her Belly increasing, and something remaining to be done for the Credit of us both, I carried her into the Country, where falling in Labour, she would not suffer me to stir from her, and her pains growing excessive, she caught my Hand in hers, and grasping it fast, said, in a soft Tone, Farewel, I dye for thee, thy last Unkindness in not performing thy promise (meaning to marry her) and not returning Love answerable to mine, hath untimely ended my Days; and thereupon fetching a groan she cryed, Love my memory since I die for Love of you; and accordingly she kept her Word, for she spoke no more, but breathed out her last; and although all means were used to save the Child yet it could not be done: this I must confess did not a little trouble me, yet in the end I drowned my sorrow in Wine, and having seen the Funeral performed, returned to *London*.

C H A P. VIII.

How he married a Wife after he had set up for himself with the Money and Goods he had purloyned from his Master; and how she Horned him; and of the Revenge he took. How Breaking he went for Ireland, &c.

BEing thus rid of my Master and Mistress, and seated in a Shop of my own, pretty well furnished,

nished, and Trade coming in I spent to the excess of Extravagancy, being seldom in my Shop, so that my Stock wanting its former supply began to diminish; nor had some failed, by reason of my long absence in the Country, to conclude that I was gone off, which, by degrees, raised such a jealousy amongst my Creditors, that they began to be very earnest with me for their Money, so, finding there was no way but to set a good Face on it, some I delayed with good Words and fair Promises, others that would not stay I was obliged to pay; and in fine, I still'd their Clamour, yet thought it time to take up, which for a while I did, diligently keeping my Shop, at which wonderful Reformation my Neighbours did not a little admire. And now I had several Matches proffered me, one of which I pitched upon, finding her Parents very wealthy, and by my noble Courtship and modest Behaviour, I soon gained upon her Affections, and in a little while after we were married: when, although she went for a spotless Virgin, and seemed very modest, and reserved, I found she had been dancing before hand, and in six Months she was delivered; which when I somewhat heinously resented, the old Sinner of a Midwife, who was her Creature, would needs persuade me it was always usual with the first Child.

When my Lady was got up again, our House was on a sudden strangely divided, for to prevent my crying Whore first, she would ever be the loudest, so that at last, seldom a Day passed but the Stools, Trenchers and Pewter flew about the House; and although in the time of Wooing she was for the most part silent, and when she spoke, her Words must be, in a manner, forced from her; now, on the contrary, she was continually as a Storm, and frequent were her Complaints to her Parents, which alienated

alienated their Affections from me ; so that they sought my Ruin by many ways, laying an Embargo on that part of her Portion, which as yet remained unpaid, and she as she found opportunity, purloyned my Goods and Money from me, and gave me only Horn ware in Exchange, which at last I discovered to my own Disgrace.

I had a long time suspected my Wife had a private Friend, yet she so cunningly managed the matter that I durst not charge it upon her without a fuller discovery, least she should grow more outrageous, and reproach me with a conceited Jealousy ; wherefore to gain a clearer Knowledge of it, I caused myself one Evening to be brought home in a Porter's Basket as dead drunk, and was received by my Wife without any ill Language, she and her Maid, who where privy to her Amours, making what haste they could to get me to Bed, yet they had no sooner left me but I crept softly to the stair-head and there lay perdue, when after a short time, after the Maid (who had been sent abroad to give her Gallant a Relation of my Condition) returned, I heard one soft knock at the Door, upon which it opened as gingerly ; nor did they long delay their intended Pleasure, which when I perceived by amorous Sighs and short Breathings, I crept down Stairs with my drawn Sword, thinking to have dispatched them both at one Pass, but erring in the Dark, I run it through the Fleehy part of their Thighs, and pinned them together in the posture, whereupon they cryed out most lamentably, begging for Quarter, which caused the Maid to come running in with a Candle, and seeing what had happened, fearing that further Mischief might ensue, she let in the Watch, and I thinking myself, now my Fury began a little to abate, sufficiently revenged, suffered them to carry off the Spark, and permitted

permitted the Maid to fetch a Chyrurgeon for her Mistress; and the next Day I made a Relation to our Parents of all that had happened; who fearing further Mischiefe were content, or at least seemed to be contented, to take her home and rid me of her. And soon after finding my Creditors begin again to grow clamorous, and knowing I had not wherewithal to satisfy them, I concluded it was best to make the best of my Market, and pack up my Awls whilst I might put them in my Budget, so that under Pretence of selling my Goods to Country Chapmen, I conveyed away all that were considerable, sending what I could not turn into Money to *West-Chester*, in order to ship them for *Ireland*; which accordingly I did, but a just Judgment pursued my Fraud and many Villanies, the Ship wherein I sent them being cast away, and myself going in the Pacquet Boat narrowly escaped the fury of the Ocean, being driven out to Sea, and tossed in a Storm for many Days; but at last I arrived at *Rings-end*, and there landed.

G H A P. IX.

How, after having escaped a dreadful Storm and lost all his Goods, he landed in Ireland, and there losing his Money he is reduced to extream Poverty.

HAVING escaped the Danger of the Sea, though with only the small Stock of Money I had in my Pockets, I husbanded it as well as I could, yet it lasted not long, for going from *Rings end* to *Dublin*, I met there with so many Rooks and Sharpers that it soon grew to a low Ebb, which my Landlady as soon perceived by the abatement of my Expences, and the Delays I made in discharging what

what was upon the Score ; and although I used many flams to put her off, by telling her I expected great store of Goods every fair Wind, yet she was so cunning that she gave little ear to it, and less credit ; by which means I found myself forced to take another method, which was to pretend Love to her, she being then a Widow ; at which she would laugh till her Sides cracked, yet at the end of her laughter, the burthen was, Come, come, away with these Fooleries, and give me my Money ; and when I replied all that I enjoyed and myself too were properly hers, and that when she pleased she might take them into her Possession ; her Answer was, No, no,—my youthful Days are past, and it is now time for me to look Heaven-ward, wherefore let fall your Suit, and pay me my Money.

Being in this Distress, and finding Words would do nothing, I resolved to accost her in Bed, thinking then she would not refuse my proffered kindness : but coming to her Bed side in the dark, and feeling for her Face, pouring out my Amorous Expressions, I caught hold of a Man's Beard, who thereupon supposing some damned Spirit came to shave him and rob him of his Wash-balls, he would have cryed, but fear had so locked up his Voice that he could only say, in a soft Tone, *In the Name of ————* What art ? I am, said I, with an audible Voice, (and thereupon she started out of her Sleep) no Ghost but a living Man, and a witness of your Lechery, to which purpose I came hither to be fully satisfied in what, for some time past, I more than barely suspected ; and as for your part, Madam, your youthful Days are past, but your Wantonness will last for ever. I had proceeded, but that they prayed me to depart and be silent, and the next Morning they would discourse with me to my satisfaction, which was the thing I aimed

at ;

at ; and to be brief, my Landlady forgave me all I owed her, and her Gallant, upon a solemn promise not to discover what I knew, presented me with ten Pounds *Irish*, which in *English* is seven Pound ten Shillings ; and soon after to make my Landlady further Amends for the Favours he had received, out of Shame to be so taken, he married her, and endowed her in a good Estate.

Having gotten this Money, I took my leave and trudg'd away to the next Gaming Ordinary, and falling in to Hazard with Toppers, Palmers and Hey boys, I lost it almost as soon as I had gained it, and so fell again into extream Poverty ; inso-much, that living for the most part upon Tobacco and Water, I had fasted so long from necessary Provision, that I had almost forgot to eat ; for if by chance, and indeed it was but seldom, I came where Meat was, and I attempted to eat, my Mouth knew not the meaning : nor could I sleep soundly, but when at any time I nodded, I dream'd of nothing but Feasts and great Plenty, when as methought I offered to eat, the Dishes and Cups were snatched from before me, and in the End, I became a meer Skeleton, having nothing but Skin to cover my Bones, which made me study some way to repair this great decay of Flesh, knowing I could not long subsist in such a Condition. But whilst I was musing and casting about for an advantageous contrivance, glancing my Eyes downward I espy'd a Groat at my Foot, which put as much Joy in me as if I had been Master of the *Spanish* Plate Fleet, nor stood I longer to pause, but thanking my good Angel, away I trudged as fast as my feeble Legs would carry me to the next Red Lettice, and declaring the largeness of my Stock, demanded as much Provision as might be afforded for it ; but they perceiving me look so wild and thin, began to start
and

and retire from me, not knowing what to make of me; but there being a Doctor in presence, who looked more narrowly on me than the rest, he told them that I was, past doubt, the Work of some Mortal, who had artificially skinned the Skeleton of a Man, and caused it to move by *German Clock-work*, which made me start up in a great Rage, though scarce able to stand, through faintness, to demonstrate that I was not what they took me for; at which all but Mr. Doctor fled, and he would have been gone, had not the Gout locked him in his Chair, yet I perceived he was under some Consternation as I approached, by saying with a trembling voice, speak, what art thou? to which with a hollow Tone, as if I had spoke in a Vault, or the next Room, I am, said I, a living Man, why then, replied he, thou wouldst have Flesh; and then proceeded to ask me many impertinent Questions, as how my Eyes came to be afraid of my Nose, and to hide themselves in the Nape of my Neck, at which I could have laughed heartily, but that my Lungs would not comply: However, in the End I satisfied him, I was reduced to the Extremity he saw me in, by the Country Disease, hiding thereby my Poverty: and in conclusion, I had both Meat and Physick, and my Landlady, at the Doctor's instance, put me to Bed, and provided me Caudles and warm Broths, so that in a Week or ten Days I began to come to my former Complection, to the no small wonder of my Landlady, who now began to smite with her blear Eyes, and left no ways untryed to bring me to her Lure. to which at length, through necessity, I was forced to stoop, and by that means so gained upon her, that all she had was at my Devotion, being never better pleased than when she could with

Money,

Money, or whatever I demanded, pleasure me. And now being well apparelled, and having my Gelding at command, I resolved to visit the Country, when coming to a small Brook, I perceived a handsome young Lass coming on the other Side, which made me stay to see how she would get over, who, according to the Custom of the rustick *Irish*, tucked up her Coats to her Waist, leaving all from her middle downward naked, and so came pladding through, which sight so tickled my Fancy, that in broken *Irish*, aswell as I could, I entered into discourse with her, and at last got her into the Wood by the Road-side, she standing very gently to be handled, in which they differ from the Modesty of *English* Lasses; but when I went about to proceed further, and she perceiving my drift, she set up her Throat and cryed out incessantly Whillallaloo, when immediately three Fellows with Flails, Prongs and Staves, came running to her Assistance, and fell upon me with such fury, that never poor Lover suffered so much by the Frowns and Disdains of the most scornful Mistress, nor had I had a Bone left whole about me, had not my Horse by winching and kicking made good my Rear, so that bethinking myself of a Pocket Pistol charged only with Powder, I drew it and fired full in the Face of him that was drubbing me over the Shoulders, who supposing himself shot through the Head, fell down as Dead through fear, which the other seeing, made their Retreat with what speed they could, nor did I pursue them, but made what haste I could to escape.

Being got clear of these merciless Knaves, I rid on five Miles further, when it growing late, and I meeting with no House but a Country Farm-House, about the height of an ordinary Pig stye, graced with a Chimney, which there is counted as great

great an Ornament as a Turret to a Noble-man's House, I entered, but found the Kitchen, Parlour, Dining-Room, Pantry, Cellar, Hen-roost, Stable and Lodging Room all on a Floor, the Hay-loft only being over-head, so that my Horse and I were conducted in in much Pomp, and when Supper came to the Table it consisted of half a dozen Leeks, a Loaf of the Colour of Rind of Bacon, and a handful of Bay Salt, which the good Wife praised above any other Diet, bringing me Drink answerable, being no other than Water with certain Herbs boiled in it, and a Pipe not half the length of her Nose, for the blackness of it might for ought I know be the Relict of the first Pipe made in that Kingdom; then having taken some Snuff, which was the best thing I met withal, I desired to go to Bed, when at the first call in came a lusty Wench, with a great Bundle of Rushes in her Arms, and spread them in due order, covering them with a Rug, and so my Landlady taking me by the Hand, conducted me to my Lodging, there being only between me and the Fire some wattles of Straw, our Pallace door being a Hurdle: Then were introduced into another Partition through my Bed chamber the Cows, Sheep, Hogs and Geese, who, out of Civility to me, had for some time been obliged to wait at the Door. All the Family being within, I layed me down, out of Compliment, only in my Shirt, Stockings and Drawers, but as for my Landlord, and Landlady, and their two lusty Daughters, they stripped stark naked and came under the Rug to me, it being it seems the Custom of those Boorish People: and although the young Ones were plump and tolerably handsome, yet my late adventure coming fresh into my mind, I lay as still as a Dormouse. But early the next Morning getting up, I discharged my Reckoning, and

and returned home, where to my great grief, after I and a Blade I met had stolen a Hogs-head of Claret, off the Custom-house Key, by laying one filled with Water in the Room of it, I found my kind old Landlady dead, who it seems had called upon me to the last, yet I was not altogether frustrated, for perceiving something in her Hand, fast clenched, I opened it and found ten Pieces of Gold, which she had undoubtedly reserved for me as her last Legacy; but seeing nothing further coming, I betook myself again to ramble, yet finding little to be got thereby I pitched upon a Project to feign myself a Batchelor, and going in a very handsome Garb, I fell to courting divers Widows and old thrifty Maids who had layed up their Money gotten in Service as Baits to catch Husbands, and by Marrying some and lustily Promising others, I got a considerable Parcel of Money: but this practice taking Air, I thought it best to be gone before I was laid up, and so re-shipp'd myself for *West-Chester*, where in a short Time I safely arrived.

C H A P. X.

How being discovered for defrauding Maids and Widows, under pretence of Wooing, he is forced to betake himself for England. How he cheats his Landlord upon his first Arrival of ten Pounds, and sets up for a Highwayman, and the pleasant Adventures he met with, &c.

HAVING taken up the best Inn in the Town, and spending liberally, I was here looked upon as an extraordinary Guest, of which I resolved to make my advantage; so that taking my Host in a merry Humour, when I had heightened him

him with Canary, I told him I was an *Irish Gra-*
zier, and had about 200 Head of Cattle coming
 over, which I expected the next fair Wind, but
 the Wind standing cross I was not only disappointed
 of them, but of Money I likewise expected, to furnish
 my present occasions, and that if he would lend me
 ten Pounds for five or six Days I would return it
 him with many Thanks and considerable Interest,
 which he at first scrupled; but in the End confi-
 dering I had a good Mare under me, and looked
 like a substantial Man, and might prove a conside-
 rable Guest upon often coming over with Cattle,
 as I told him I intended, he fetched me the Sum
 required, taking only a Note under my Hand for
 the Repayment. And having now furnished myself
 with a Sword, Pistols and all other Accoutrements
 for the Road, I watched my opportunity early one
 Morning whilst the Hostler was gone to Air a Gen-
 tleman's Gelding that stood at Livery, and got
 my Mare saddled, when without taking any leave
 or paying my Complement of Departure to my
 Host and Hostess, I mounted and bid adieu to my
 Quarters.

I had not rid above twenty Miles of the *London*
 Road since I left *West-chester*, but three well mounted
 Persons passed by me, who were, as I soon under-
 stood, the Vaunt-Guard, there being as many more
 in the Rear; and at the Bottom of the Hill facing
 about they bid me Stand, being soon reinforced by
 the Rear, so that now I was enclosed on every Side;
 when one of them clapping a Pistol to my Breast
 commanded me, with a volley of Oaths to deli-
 ver, or I was a dead Man; and now having no
 other shift, smiling on him, I told him I was or
 would be one of the Society; which the rest hear-
 ing came up close, and fell however, to examining
 of my Pockets, where I had a considerable quantity
 of

of Money, which I to set a better Face upon the matter, told them I had taken a little before as a Booty, when shewing them, at the same time, my Pistols in my Boots and Pockets; they believed me, and so we rid together to an Inn some distance thence, where, when they had pulled off their false Beards, false Wens and Scars, with other Deformities, I was amazed to see them changed to quite other Men, and could not have known them to be the same had I not accompanied them. And here we drank and feasted highly, and I, a younger Brother, received Instructions how to behave myself in this my new Undertaking, though too tedious here to be recited.

Having spent lavishly, and our Stock beginning to shrink, we agreed the next Day to go out upon the Purchase, and I being sent out for a Scout, and lighting upon a single Person, resolved to try my first experiment of this kind, and therefore having passed him, I stayed at the Bottom till he overtook me, and there I bid him Stand and Deliver his Money or he was a dead Man, at which he fell into a fit of Trembling, and would have willingly done it, but his Stone Horse, on which he rid, scenting my Mare, fell to capering and leaping at such a rate, that furiously wheeling off he came in the Rear of me, and leaping up gave me such a blow on the Shoulder with one of his Feet that I thought for a time, he had beat my Arm off, and although I dismounted him and wheeled about very swiftly, yet still he was upon me, whilst the poor innocent Gentleman, fearing he should too much provoke me by delay and the unruliness of his Horse, cried out, in a doleful Tone, Worthy Sir, take what I have and spare my Life; but I being thus hardly put to it, and Fear having rendered me incapable of doing the Office of a Thief,

I was

I was forced to put Spurs to my Mare and fly with all speed, whilst the Horse followed upon me as fast, and was even at my Heels, at which flight a Pistol went off in my Pocket, and I verily supposing my Adversary had fired upon me in my Rear, I roared out for Quarter, whilst he (on the contrary thought I fought *Parthian* like, and fired flying.) often cryed out, as you are a Man shew yourself merciful, often calling to me to stop, which made me ride more furiously, supposing he had called to the Country People to stop me; yet at last we came both down together upon his Horse's leaping my Mare; when fearing he would be upon me and cut my Throat, I started up and found him upon the Run, but soon overtook him, and made him my Prize without any Resistance, and being possessed of what he had, I fell to domineering like a Constable over a Hedge-breaker, and Sirrah, said I, if I e'er meet with you again, and you prove thus obstinate or dare to resist, I'll tye you to a Tree, in some obscure Place, where none shall hear your doleful cries, and feed you for six Days, with pieces of your own Sword, and Gun-powder and Bullets delivered into your Mouth, through the Muzzle of your own Pistol. It pleased me mightily to see how pitifully and submissively he looked, for had he look'd but stern, I durst not have uttered what I did: However, I bound him, cut his Horses Girths, and so left him to the next Passenger to unloose: at which time my Comrades, who had from a Coverture of Trees seen all that had happened, fell to jeering and flouting me at a strange rate, till such time as I was forced to stop their Mouths with the Booty. But soon after I was somewhat even with them, for they taking the hooting of an Owl for the Cry of the Country after them, fled sixteen Miles before they durst adventure

venture to stop, and indeed a small matter scares the most Resolute of them; for being attended with a guilty Conscience, and acting against a Country Law, each Bush that rustles on a sudden startles them.

Being by this time better acquainted with these Exploits, and fearing by being in so great a Gang, to be discoverd by some that formerly knew me, I, pretending to pay a visit to an Uncle of mine, not far from our Rendezvous, found an opportunity for some time to absent myself from them; in which space I met with several Prizes that plentifully supplied me with Gold and Silver: when one Evening riding along the Road, I espied a brisk Country Lass, about fifteen, with a Milk pail upon her Head, just entering a Gate to do the Office of a Milk-maid, with whose Features I was so taken that I could not chuse but fix my Eyes upon her, and to have the better opportunity, I asked her several questions about the Way, and the Names of the adjacent Villages, to which she made me such innocent Replies, that I resolved to be further acquainted with her, -and so rid into the Field after her, at which she began to be in some Consternation, supposing I intended her some injury; but when with many Protestations I had satisfied her the contrary, she hushed her fears, and we began to discourse of divers matters, yet so powerful her Charms wrote in my mind, that every stroke she gave the Cows Dugs, with her pretty Fingers, put strange Fancies into my Head, making me utterly forget what I had protested; when gaining her at an advantage, the Coast being clear, and a great way from any Houses, between willing and unwilling, I obliged her to grant my desire; after which I protested so much Love for her, that I dried up those few Tears that fell, and it was agreed between

tween us that she should first go Home, and I coming as a Stranger to her Father's House, who kept a Farm about a Mile Distance, she would so contrive it that I should find Entertainment; and accordingly she did, for watching when I came to the Gate, she came first to receive my request, and returning, assured the old Dad that a Gentleman who was belated, and ill acquainted with the Country, had lost his Way, and desired a Night's Entertainment, which the old Man readily consented to give, and bid me welcome; so that that Night passing over, and I liking my pretty Country Mistress extremely, I feigned a Sickness the next Morning, and so continued there about a Fortnight; and in the End began, (before the People) to make Love to her in publick, the which, though they excused it as a Match unmeet for me, I notwithstanding urging, that I could no otherwise return them a plenary satisfaction for their kindness. They seemed well enough contented with it, and did not a little privately rejoice to see us together, especially after I had shewed them store of Gold, and possessed them with an opinion that I had a great Estate: nor was I less diligent to enquire of my young Mistress what store of Coin her Father had by him, when to the crossing my expectation, she assured me he had not five Pounds, having lately payed a considerable Sum for a Purchase; whereupon I concluded to be gone, with all convenient speed: However, the Night before the Morning I intended to be jogging, being about to take, in the usual manner, my last farewell with my Mistress in a back Room, where a great many Milk Pans stood, we unfortunately threw down some of them, together with the Form they stood on, which made such a clattering that before we could disengage or convey ourselves thence, in came the old Man, and

too plainly perceived what Game we had been at, seeming greatly dissatisfied, but I still promising Marriage, and making many Excuses and Apologies, especially for my Mistress, things were hushed for the present, and I to prevent further Importunity on that occasion, mounted without the knowledge of any of the Family, before Day, and stopped not, till I was twenty Miles distance; yet not to be ungrateful, I left on the Table in my Chamber twenty Pieces of Gold, to defray the Charges of my Mistresses lying-in, and other Things of the like nature.

C H A P. XI.

How being parted from his Country Mistress whom he had ensnared under promise of Marriage, he was set upon by a Female Robber, how he discovered it; and how afterwards meeting his Chester Landlord, was committed to Jail.

HAVING left the Farmer and his Wife to condole the Loss of their Daughter's Virginity; as I was riding careless on the Road, in a Bottom between two Coppices, a supposed Gentleman, well mounted, started from behind a Thicket or little Tuft of Trees, and commanded me to Deliver; to which I replied, if he would have a little patience he should have his desire; whereupon I drew my Pocket Pistol and fired without doing Execution, but he was almost as nimble as myself, for drawing a Pistol and firing, shot me in the Leg; and having his Sword at command, that hung on his Wrist, he cut the Reins of my Bridle, and had soon had me at his Mercy, had not the Bullets of the next Pistol I discharged entered his Horses Forehead; and brought

brought him to the Ground; yet mine survived not long, for my supposed Gentleman, being upon his Feet, sheathed his Sword in my Horse's Belly, and brought us once more upon equal Terms, where, after some Passes, I found him more expert at the Sword than myself, and therefore putting by a Pass, which had otherwise done my Business, I closed, and with much ease threw him, at which I did not a little wonder; and having him at my Mercy I bound his Hands, and began to take the Booty; but coming to unbutton his Breeches to search for private Pockets, he would have clapped his Hands to prevent it, which I perceived by the Motion, but they were bound too fast, when searching lower, he cried out, entreating me to be civil, which made me suspect somewhat more than ordinary Treasure, but on the contrary turning up the Shirt, otherwise Smock, I perceived I had been mistaken in the Sex, and thereupon with no small Consternation, having given my Eyes an unexpected satisfaction, I begged (instead of his) her Pardon, and instantly unbound her, for which she returned me thanks, intreating me to be private in what I had discovered, and go along with her, where she would repair the loss of my Horse by bestowing a better upon me; and so taking off the furniture we passed through the Coppice, and after that through an over-grown Wood, where under an extraordinary shadow of Trees stood a little House, into this we entered, and were by my Hostess extreamly welcomed, Wine we had, though much contrary to my Expectation, in such a Place where I supposed their principal Liquor to consist on the Essence of Crabs, and in a trice a couple of Fowls were layed to the Fire, and made ready; when in came two other Amazons, in Mens Apparel, and having understood from my pretty Padder who I was, with

the Relation of our Adventure, we soon became intimately acquainted, so that the Mirth encreasing, we proceeded to a more amorous Combate; but I being the only Pike man, found the Service in the end too hot for me, and a cessation of Arms was had at my entreaty; and then they informed me who they were, and how they came to undertake these pieces of Knight-Errantry: and the next Morning, being provided with a stately Golding, which my pretty Antagonist had sent for from a private Stable, after they had obliged me to secrecy, I took my leave.

Being again well mounted, I rode for *Oxford*, and by the way met with two of the old Gang, from whom I understood that the rest had taken their leave of the World through a Hempen Casket, which occasioned a fit of Melancholy to seize me, imagining that at one time or other it would be my Fortune to follow them: However calling at one of the Stages on the Road, they soon drowned my fears with Canary, and so we proceeded to our former Practices. But coming to *Oxford* I had not been long there before my *Chester* Landlord of whom I had borrowed the ten Pounds, got a sight of me, and having lodged me in a House, immediately fetched a couple of fellows that lodged me in a Prison, yet I stayed not there a Week before my Companions knowing where I was, sent the Debt and Fees, which wrought such powerful effects that I soon had my Liberty; so that knowing where my Deliverers were, I resolved to go and return them my thanks for a kindness, which indeed I little expected from them.

C H A P. XII.

How being released from Prison, where he was put for Debt, he came to his Companions. How he snapp'd a Gentleman of a Watch; Robb'd a Physician, under pretence of carrying him to a Patient; and gained his Ends on a beautiful young Widow, &c.

C Oming into the Room where my Companions were, I found them with two strange Gentlemen, whom they were pumping to find which way they intended to travel, and what they had about them; but to their small satisfaction, they perceived they had no more than what would defray their Charges, though over and above one of them had a curious Watch, at which their Mouths water'd, and the which I, who sat by them, as a stranger to all, undertook to get with little trouble or hazard; and having made my Intention known by signs to my Companions, I went out and ordered my Horse to be Bridled and Saddled, when in the mean while my Companions being desirous to know what Hour it was, drew their Watches, which the Stranger perceiving, drew his, so that a Dispute arising which went truest, or which was the best Watch, a Wager was thereupon laid, and I returning at the instant, they agreed that I being a Stranger, indifferent to either Party, should decide it; when taking the Watches out of the strange Gentleman's Hand, and pretending the Room too dark to give a true Judgment, I stepped out at the Door and mounting, made such speed that I was quickly out of sight; at which my Companions stormed, and with much fierceness said, it was a Defraud plotted between the strange Gentleman

tleman and me, and that he would have instantly satisfaction since he had delivered it; and proceeded to such a height of Roaring, that the Gentleman, though he protested against any Acquaintance with me, or ever before to have seen me, was forced to give him a Piece to stop his Mouth: whereupon they followed me and found me at the next Stage, where, in requital of their late kindness, I gave them the Watch. And here we called so long for Wine and other materials, that our Stock ran very low, whereupon we sent for mine Host, and demanded of him if he could tell us any good news, to which he replied, he knew of a Bird that had good Feathers, if we could but lay a Trap for him: and being desired to explain himself, he said, that there was a Physician in the Town before us, who, for the great esteem he bore to the Metal, always carried fifty or sixty broad Pieces of Gold about him, and if you can get him out by a wile some distance from home you know what you have to do. This I undertook, and soon brought it to pass, under pretence of having a Sister of mine, who was shortly to be married, taken desperate sick; taking upon me the Name and Character of a Gentleman whom Mr Doctor knew to have a Sister at a Boarding-School where he had some Patients, &c.

These two Exploits gained me much repute amongst my Companions, and much endeared me to them: however, being much taken notice of in this Country, we concluded, for a time to separate, which accordingly we did, and taking each a several Road, it was my lot, just as the Sun was about to set, to approach a fair House, some distance from any Town or Village, and thither I made, thinking that something there might turn to my advantage, as indeed it did. Being come to the Gate,

Gate, I boldly knocked and the Maid coming to demand my Business, I desired her to tell her Master that I was a Gentleman, that had by misfortune mistook the Road I intended, and having a considerable Charge about me, and Night coming on, I was loth to venture further, and therefore desired the Courtesy of a Lodging for that Night: the Wench having made this Relation to her Mistress, for a Master she had not, the good Gentlewoman came to the Gate herself, and very civilly welcom'd me in, telling me that any Person, who looked like a Gentleman, might freely make use of her House upon such an occasion; and so she conducted me into a very fair Room, where she demanded several questions of me in Relation to my Travels, and what I more particularly was; to all which, I framed suitable Answers, who seeming extremely pleased with my Company, prepared an extraordinary Supper to speak my better welcome. And being set at the Table, I had the more leisure to eye her, and found that nature had much befriended her, by framing her exceeding beautiful, and by her quaint Expressions, I as well perceived, that her Wit ran parallel; and Supper ended, we spun out the Time till ten of the Clock, discoursing upon sundry Things, at what time she told me that, knowing I was weary, she would no longer hinder my Repose; and thereupon conducted me to my Chamber, and betook herself to hers; and though I was somewhat weary yet I could sleep but little, for thinking upon this Gentlewoman, who, do what I could, still ran in my mind; and as I was contriving how I might make an excuse for a longer delay. Day now appearing, I heard her Chamber-door open, and soon after the Maid brought me up a Caudle, which I had scarce dispensed withal, but in came the Mistress, and bid

me a good Morning, enquiring how I slept, to which I made a most obliging Reply, rendering her many Thanks for the favour she had done me; upon which she retired, and I perceiving her up, thought it a shame for me to be in Bed, and thereupon instantly put on my Cloaths, when coming down I found she had prepared an extraordinary Breakfast for my Entertainment, which, after some complementary Excuses, I accepted; and then after several Discourses, which she purposely found out to delay me, whilst her Eyes sparkled Love and Goodness, in a very ceremonious manner, I took my leave, yet she would accompany me to take Horse; at what time, when he was brought out of the Stable, he halted down Lane, for as I afterward understood, she caused him to be pricked in the Foot to prolong my stay, which was as I could wish; and whilst I stood musing at this, supposing it an Accident, not well knowing what to say or think, Well Sir, said she, since it has so unluckily fallen out that your Horse is disabled, make use of my House, and what it affords, till he is recovered of his Lameness: inwardly glad at this invitation, though I made many pretences of urgent Business, I returned with her, and so we fell again to discourse of many things, and in all I found her so witty and ingenious that I could not but admire her: when having talked ourselves weary, come, said she, in a very familiar manner, I'll shew you the product of some idle Hours; and with that, going to her Closet she immediately returned, with a handful of Papers, containing Elegies, Epitaphs, Anagrams, Acrosticks, and much more of the like kind, very witty and ingenious, which she said were of her own composing; nor in truth could I sufficiently commend them, being the very Essence of a curious Fancy: whereupon to give her to understand

stand that I was no Bastard of the Muses, and to render her, in some measure, a suitable return, I took the Pen and Ink and wrote these Lines.

*Sisters thrice three, I've read of and no more,
Till your rare Wit compleated half a Score :
Since you are one, let me persuade you then
Be kind to me, 'or they are kind to Men :
Fairest be like them, they are soft and blithe,
Let who will love the Nine, give me the Tithe.*

Upon reading these Lines she smiled and blushed; when recollecting herself, she returned me her Thanks, telling me she was much obliged to me for what I had writ; resolving to lay hold of this opportunity, I replied, you cannot, Madam, cancel your Obligation until you have made me some Recompence. To, which, she, smilingly, demanded what would content me. A Continuance, Madam, replied I, of your favour, which is the utmost Ambition of my Desires. You have it Sir, said she, nor can I in civility deny a thing so considerable to any deserving Man. Ah Madam! continued I, mistake me not, for by it I mean your Love. To this she briskly replied, whilst her Eyes betrayed the inward motions of her Mind, I was never so uncharitable, Sir, to be out of Love with any Person. These free Answers to my Proposals, did not a little encourage me, as knowing a Fort that thus capitulates will not be long e'er it surrenders; so that laying aside all niceties, I plainly told her that I passionately loved her from the first Moment I beheld her lovely Person, and that if she would yield me her Love, the future Business of my Life should be to serve and oblige her; whereupon a pleasing Blush overspread her Face, and when she had a little composed herself, she told me

it was a weighty matter I demanded, and that my Constancy ought to be left to the Test of Time : or indeed, should she believe me suddenly, before she had made Tryal, it would not only lessen the good Estimation she had gained by the prudent and discreet conduct and management of her Affairs, every one accusing her of too much credulity, but thereby it might peradventure, involve her in a Labyrinth of Troubles. Yet perceiving a yielding in her Eyes, and we being private in her Chamber, and knowing that Parleys operate little on a Widow, and that there is nothing sooner gains a Conquest than a resolute assault, between willing and unwilling, perceiving me resolutely bent, she yielded to a tryal of my Love ; after which she became so firmly mine, that she would scarcely endure me out of her sight, so that we spent two Months in all manner of Delights and Pleasures : at the end of which, perceiving herself with Child, she pressed me to marry her, shewing me, the better to comply with her desires, the Writings that belonged to her Estate, which I found to be very considerable ; as likewise she gave me the Keys of her Trunks, wherein she had great store of Treasure, demanding with many endearing Embraces, whether these satisfied me or not : to which I replied, they did, but I was more abundantly satisfied in her dear self ; and thereupon made a solemn Promise to marry her in four Days : but whilst she was preparing for our Nuptials, I was plotting to be gone, though since I have often wished I had been so wise as to lay hold of this opportunity to have made myself happy in a settled Life, and thereby have prevented the miseries that afterwards besel me.

Many ways I contrived to leave my lovely Widow, whose Charms, Features and Endowments, though they were many and excellent, could not prevail.

prevail over my Rambling Fancy : but she narrowly watching me, as suspecting I intended to leave her, I was forced to feign an Indisposition, pretending for my Healths sake, that I would ride four or five Miles and return again, having before crammed my Pockets with as much Money as I could conveniently carry without discovery : to which she with much unwillingness consented. Yet as I was about to take Horse, she wept very bitterly, and when I asked her the cause of her discontent, all bathed in Tears, and at the same time fetching a deep Sigh, she said, I shall never see you more, hard-hearted Man, can you thus leave a Woman that loves you thus dearly, nay, dotes upon you ? and though I made many protestations of returning, which indeed I never intended, I could not comfort her : but leaving her over-whelmed in a flood of Grief, I set spurs to my Horse and was quickly out of sight. Though afterward reflecting upon this inhuman Action, I extreamly condemned myself : however, Wine and good Company, those Antidotes against care and sorrow, soon washed her memory out of my mind.

C H A P. XIII.

How he came to London and got Time of his Creditors.

Found out his Wife, with the Adventure that attended it. Set up a new Trade, was routed. Undertook the Robbing of a House, was taken, committed to Newgate, and escaped thence.

HAVING left my Widow in Tears, I hastened to London, and there meeting with a trusty Friend, for fear of being served as it happened to

me at *Oxford*, I got him to go to my Creditors and get me a Letter of Licence, I intending, if I could suddenly happen on any considerable Booty, to augment what I had, to begin the World afresh : which accordingly he did for the space of three Years ; as for the inconsiderable ones I did not much value them, as knowing I cou'd make them satisfaction if it came to extremity. And now it coming into my mind that I had left a Wife behind me when I went for *Ireland*, I made enquiry for her amongst her Relations, but they were altogether ignorant of her abode ; wherefore my mind misgiving me that she was set up for a free Trader upon the Stock of her Mother's Legacy, it took me up a whole Day to ramble through all the suspected Places, when, towards the close of the Evening, as I passed through *Whetstones* Park, I saw my Jewel standing at a Door, but her frequent Trading, and those many shots she had received between Wind and Water in the Service, had so altered her Countenance, and disproportioned her Body, that I knew not whether this Frigate was *English* or *Flemish* built : However, I hailing whence she was, Boarded her, and made her a lawful Prize, mistake me not, I rumaged not, I rumaged not in her Hold, as suspecting she was a fire Ship : Upon the sight and knowledge of me, she shed some Crocodile Tears, and entreating me not to take notice of her, but to comply with the Customs of the House in their unconscionable reckonings and Measure, in we went, but scarce had time to look about us, but I was sick of the Pestilential Air that breathed there, and appointed my Wife to meet me in another Place, where we could discourse more uninterruptedly ; and so discharging the Reckoning I departed.

My Wife meeting at the appointed time, we agreed to take a House in a blind Alley in *Moorfields*,

fields, which we did for the Trading purpose ; some Goods we bought, and some we took upon the Talley, I all this while concealing my stock : and soon after my Wife going to the Carriers procured a couple of brisk handsome Country Girls, so that our Trade went on roundly, and great Gain ensued. But being in the height of the Business, or Trade, she and her two Ladies of Pleasure were taken up by a Warrant and sent to *Bridewell* ; when in the mean time, I, who went not for her Husband, and was little taken notice of, by reason I was seldom at home, sold off all the Goods, and put the Money in my Pocket, and so went to visit my Wife in *Bridewell*, and fortunately it happened, that it was on the Day she was to receive her Correction : however I found her and her two Journey-women beating Hemp, and so strangely my Imagination worked, that I fancied the very Hemp that was under my Wives Beetle, would make the Rope that should send me into the other World. And now my Wife being naked stripped to the Waist and manacled, whilst she expected I should intreat for her to the mitigation of her Punishment, I declared to the President the whole Course of her Life, with Aggravation, desiring that the number of her Stripes might be encreased, and so, without giving her leave to reply, withdrew myself, and left the Fellow incircling her Waist with his Cat a Ninetails, nor did her two Complices fail to run the same risque.

I was scarce got into the Street, when I met two of my Quondam Companions, who invited me to the Tavern, where over a Glass of Wine it was agreed that I should convey myself into a House, nominated, which they intended to Rob, and so when all the Family was in Bed, to open the Doors and let them in : nor did my first attempt fail to
 promise

promise me success, for without the least Discovery, I got under the Bed in a lower Room, and there lay as snug as a Thief in a Mill, till Candles were brought, when peeping out I perceived, by the laying of the Cloth, they intended to Sup there that Night, which did not at all please me; however, whilst I was considering whether I had best keep my Station or sneak out again, in came the Guests, and after some Compliments, took their Seats, which put me in such a fear, that my Knees knocked together like Marrow-bones, and for my Life I could not at that time prevent a fit of the Palsy: and now to encrease the Agony I was in, the Cat having gotten a large Bone came with it under the Bed, whither the Dog followed her, where falling at variance, the spot whereon they combated was my Back side; however, the Cat being put to the worst fled for it, but the Dog finding me heave and stir, kept a terrible grinning and barking, when to drive him thence, one of the Servants threw a fire-shovel at him, which with the sharp edge had like to have pared off my Nose: but he continuing his noise to the disturbance of the Company, they threw him out by the Heels, and thrust him forth of the Room; yet no sooner was the Door open but he re-enters, and came at me with greater fury. when to avoid his catching me by the Face, turning my Head hastily, I struck it against the Bed supporter with such force that it made the whole Frame to shake, and I, at the same time, letting fly behind, through the excess of fear that had seized me, the Room was incontinently perfumed, which made many of the Guests hold their Noses, and perceiving the Dog to grow more earnest, they concluded something more than ordinary must occasion it, when looking underneath they could, without the help of Spectacles, see poor Peel Garlick giving up the Ghost, yet not standing.

standing upon any Ceremony, they dragged me out by the Heels, and conveyed me with the help of a Constable, before the next Justice of the Peace, who committed me to Prison, from whence soon after, I escaped down the Vault or Evacuating-house, with two others, by the help of a Rope, brought me by a trusty Friend, and so by crawling through the many windings of the Common-shore under-ground, meeting by the Way with the effects of sundry Houses of Ease, and dead Carcases, almost stifled with the noisom damp, often wishing ourselves back again, though in vain, we regained the Light, and breathed the fresh Air, having before filed off our Bolts and had fresh Cloaths provided for us by some of our Accomplices, and going to a House that we could confide in, we there lay snug till the heat of the Search for us was over, and then so disguised ourselves before we durst walk abroad, that, upon my first coming upon my Companions, I so frightened them, they not knowing me, that they were struck speechless, and ready to die with fear: such Power has the terror of Guilt over the Consciences of Men. But being drest in querpout we went, and in the long Walk, between the Hospitals, met with a Mouth, that is, a Novice or Culley, whom we drilled to the Tavern, under pretence of deciding and spending a Wager, and there at Dice and Cards, having those prepared for the purpose, we drinking him high, rooked, what with Bets and playing, at least forty Pounds out of him, which set us up Cock-a-hoop.

C H A P. XIV.

He and two of his Companions going upon the Pad, are over-power'd, and taken in the attempting of a Robbery, He is committed to Newgate, and condemn'd: the Sorrow that he fell into, &c.

MY business now was to find out my Comrades, which I soon did, as well knowing their Haunts, and there we concluded to purchase Horses, and travel in search of Adventures, which accordingly we did, but it proved to our small Satisfaction, for attempting to set upon three persons, whom we judged we might easily overcome, I had at the second firing my Horse shot under me, and the fourth, one of my Companions was killed, although we fired smartly, and wounded our Adversaries; which my other Companion perceiving, and finding we were over-matched, fled, leaving me to shift for myself, who, although I fought desperately as one in despair, knowing I should be hanged if I was taken, I was at last overpower'd, and being carried to the next Justice, he committed me to *Newgate*: where upon my Arrival the Keeper was exceeding glad to see me, telling me I should be no more annoyed with the Fumes of the Vault, for he would provide me another Lodging; and the upon loading me with as much Iron as some Country Smiths have in their Shops, I was, for a while, put into the Dungeon, and Sessions coming on, my Accusers appearing against me, I was at the *Old-Bailey*. Tryed and Condemned to be hanged: returning, after Sentence, to the Place from whence I came with a sad and dejected Heart.

Being returned to my Terrestrial Tophet, where
Darkness,

Darkness, Horror, and Despair surrounded me, I began seriously to reflect upon my past Actions, for now my sleeping Conscience began to be awakened, and the Terrors of Guilt took hold on me, concluding myself now on the brink of Eternity, and that a few Hours would push me into the vast and boundless Abyss, and that I must appear before the Judge of all the Earth, against whose tremendous Majesty I had made it the whole Business of my Life to sin and commit Wickedness, and therefore could expect nothing but Wrath and fiery Indignation: yet that I might somewhat repair the Injury I had done my Country men, I, during the little respite I had before my Tryal, made a plain Discovery of the practice of Highway-men, their manner of Robbing, and how Travellers might best secure themselves and avoid them, resolving, in the little remainder of my Days, that I supposed I had to live, to do all the good, and make all the Reparation that lay in my power. And now I was visited by a faithful Minister, who first applyed Corrosives to my ulcerated Soul, by laying before me the Danger I was in, without the Interposition of an extraordinary Mercy, everlastingly to perish: and having made me abundantly sensible of my deplorable Estate, which he perceived by the Rivers of Tears that flowed from my Eyes, and the deep Sighs that seemed to rend and break my stony Heart in sunder, he began to enquire into the Actions of my Life, and was amazed upon the recital, that so many Villainies could claim a share in one Man, especially of my Years. However, before he left me, he gave me such cordial Consolation and Advice that it wrought wonderful effects, insomuch that I was broken under the sense of my Sin and Vileness, and cried for Mercy without ceasing, wishing to endure all the Torments this World could inflict upon me, so that I might escape those

those which were eternal: and when I reflected upon Eternity, upon endless woe and misery, to endure for a thousand of millions of Ages, and then to be far from ending as at first, my Soul started and was swallowed up in an Abyss of Horror and Confusion; yet, in the end, I found a little more comfort, which by degrees encreased, &c.

From the time of my Condemnation till *Monday Morning*, the Day appointed for my Execution, I neither slept nor eat, only so much as might just support Life; then did I hear my Passing-Bell, the Day before having heard my Funeral Sermon, and every Toll methought carried my Soul one degree higher, as well hoping, by the calmness of my mind, that my unfeigned Contrition had prevailed with the God of Mercies to have Compassion on me. But whilst I was in the Depth of my Meditation, and my Soul-breathing out this short Ejaculation, *viz.*

Is there no hope now of Relief

In this Extremity?

Mercy e'er now has sav'd a Thief,

And may as much for me.

A Friend of mine, who had visited me during my Imprisonment, brought me Word that I was Reprieved, and that my Punishment of Death was changed into a seven Years Banishment, though it was a considerable time before he could make me believe it; and when I was assured it was true, I was so indifferent, that being fully prepared to die, and so well, as I hoped, settled my Affairs as to Eternity, that I could not for some time determine with myself whether it would not prove to my greater disadvantage than advantage: however, the Flesh pleaded for Life, and I thankfully accepted it, and within a fortnight

fortnight after was shipped on Board with many others, for one of the Plantations.

C H A P. XV.

Being Reprieved, he is shipped in order to Transportation. Is cast away, yet taken up. A second time he is cast away; escapes to Land. Puts again to Sea and is taken by the Turks. The Miseries he endures. And how he passed to India, &c.

BEING on Board, we set Sail from the 'Downs, about the Beginning of September, but were scarce out of the sight of Land, before a melancholy Darknes oe'rspread the Face of the Heavens, and thick Clouds began to muster like Armies, the Winds instantly grew into a Storm, and the Sea into Mountains of Waves, whilst we reeled from side to side like drunken Men, and all hands were too few to keep the Ship in order; and although we pumped incessantly, the Waters prevailed in our Hold, and every Man, in whose Face appeared the visible Symptoms of Death, began to cry for Mercy, especially when they were informed by those that were sent in search, that the Leak our Ship had sprung was incurable: and now I began to think myself the *Jonah* in the Ship, and that this Punishment happened to the rest for my Sins. But every Man endeavouring to thift for himself, not to be behind hand, I leaped off the Deck, thinking to leap into the Boat, but came short; yet being dextrous at Swimming, I at last got in, but was no sooner there, e'er another leaped down upon me and had almost beat the Breath out of my Body, the which, however, in this Exigence I took kindly enough; and

and now the boat being as full as it would well bear, we were forced for self preservation, to put off, and leave a great number behind us, and so committed ourselves to the Mercy of the Seas, which played at Racket with us, tossing us from Wave to Wave, sometimes mounting us up as if it would wash us in the Clouds, then down again as if it would bury us in the Sands:

Jam jam tacturus, fidera summa putēs.

When in the Moment of Death, and we were without hope, the Wind tacked about, and brought back a Ship of our Company in sight of us, but it still rode on so furiously before the Wind, that although on either part we used what endeavours we could, we could not reach either till the next Morning, and then I found a Rope, which a little before had like to have been my destroyer, to be my preserver, for had I not caught hold on it, by good Fortune, just as it was thrown out, the Seamen being gotten on Board, the Waves had forced me off in the Boat alone, they not in a case where Life was in the Ballance, regarding their exiled Prisoner: but being got again between strong wooden Walls, my fears and cares vanished, for as I had nothing but my Life to lose, and that being saved, I thought I ought to bless God rather than repine as others did, who made great Lamentation for what had perished in the Sea.

Long we had not sailed in this second Ship, but as great a storm arose as before, and all Government being lost, we were forced to let her drive before the Wind, the Masts being over-blown or cut by the Board, till she struck so vehemently against a Rock, that the horrid Noise would have even made, had it been possible, a dead Man start; to which, adding

ding the fearful Cries of the Seamen, the whistling of the Winds, and the Roaring of the Seas, that it seemed yet more terrible : but the Ship, by the violent force, striking fast between two Rocks, we had time enough to leap out upon one of them, before the Sea broke her, and fetched her off ; and Day appearing, we found ourselves but little distance from the Shoar, so that the Sea being at Ebb, and having left the Sands almost dry, we adventured over it, and once more getting firm footing, our Joys were somewhat encreased, though our condition was bad enough, for we had nothing to subsist withall, and were to boot in a strange Country, being cast upon the Coast of *Spain* : however, conjecturing there was a House not far distant, by the rising of Smoak, which we supposed ascended from a Chimney, we made thither-ward, steering our Course over Hedge and Ditch, by the direction of our Eyes, till at last we found our surmize to be true, and the Master of the House standing at the Door, to whom I spoke in Latin, giving him a brief account of our sad Misfortunes ; which not only made him pity us, but drew likewise Tears from his Eyes, promising to supply us with the best Entertainment he had, which consisted of the most part of *Ola de Podrida*, being abundance of Herbs minced and boiled with a small Quantity of Meat, served in the same kind, yet we at that time swallowed it very cordially, and shewed ourselves very thankful, especially when he brought us a Flask of Wine, which much refreshed our weary and weather beaten Spirits : so that continuing here a Day and a Night, we desired to take our leave, that we might pass to the next port, there, if possible, to find a Passage for *England* : but I who feared to be hanged if taken, upon my former Sentence, for returning before the expiration of my limited time, was not so forward as the rest,

which

which unwillingness he perceiving, and being much taken with my Conversation, he told me if I would be content to stay with him, he would provide me a Place in a Ship under him, being in a short time to sail to the *East-Indies*. And now all the World being my Home but *England*, I cared not much whither I went, and being greatly desirous to see a Country of which I had heard so much of by Report, I told him, since he had made me so kind an offer, I should be ungrateful should I refuse it, and therefore told him I was altogether at his Service, to be ruled by him as he should think most convenient.

I had not long stayed at this House but word was brought him that the Ship was ready, having received on board her full Cargo; so that passing over Land to *Lisbon*, the Port where she lay, we went on Board, and the next Day set Sail, weathering, in a short time, a great Storm, which made me suspect that the Sea was unwilling to bear a Person so notoriously wicked as myself, though the Proverb runs contrary, *viz. The Sea and the Gallows refuse none*. Being again at Sea, I notwithstanding took heart, yet the Storm no sooner ceased but we discovered three Vessels, which, upon nearer view, proved to be *Turks* Men of War, who no sooner spied their Prey but they chased us, and soon brought us up, we being deep laden, and they light and nimble: however, we fought them for the space of three Hours, with great Courage; but finding our Ship miserably rent with their Shot, and a great many Men killed and disabled on Board, we thought it time to surrender, and indeed had we delayed it, they would have Boarded us, for there remained not ten able Men to man the Guns or defend the Ship.

Being in the power of the Infidels, they clapped us under the Hatches, and suffered us to see no light

till we lapped at *Algiers*; and there having lain in a dark and noisome Place, with Irons on our Legs and Hands, till the Day of Sale for Slaves, we were with a considerable Guard to keep us from starting, led into the Market-Place; where, after one had felt my Limbs that they were well jointed, as also seen my Mouth, to see if I had good Grinders, I was bought by a *Jew*, who carried me home and set me to Grinding in a Hand-Mill, feeding me with hard Bisket, and now and then some Rice-pottage, Water being for the most part my Drink; yet if I performed not my Task, my cruel Task-Master would not fail to remember my back-side, with a twilted Whalebone till the Blood had trickled from my Shoulders. And now having no hopes of Release from this worse than *Egyptian* Bondage, my Bed being only Straw or a hard Mat, I began to repent that I had accepted of my Reprieve, and wished for myself that I had died by the Hand of the Executioner, where my pain would have been but short, rather than to have come to an intolerable slavery, of which I could expect no end but Death, which made me plot many things for my Escape; but finding it impossible, seeing I had continually so many Eyes upon me, and further understanding that the Coast was continually watched, and myself every Night locked up close Prisoner: however knowing, my Patron to be very covetous, and if he could have made as much of me dead as living, he had not cared how soon I would have hanged myself or cut my Throat, or perhaps he would have done it for me; I pretended, as indeed how could I do otherwise, much discontent, looking often very wildly, protesting I had rather die a thousand Deaths, than serve so cruel a Master; and one Day proffering to cut my Throat when I knew I was watched, my Patron had soon notice of it, and withal advised to sell

felt me speedily, or I would certainly make away
 with myself; who thereupon taking the Advice,
 sold me to a *Greek*, and he being inwardly a *Chri-*
stian, though in that barbarous Place he durst not pub-
 licly profess his Religion, I quickly found my Con-
 dition altered, for I was now treated with much
 mildness, which made my Work easy to me; with
 him I lived till such time as I made my escape in
 Disguise to some *Portuguese* Ships that lay in the
 Road, and came to redeem Slaves. And so coming
 to *Portugal* and there being destitute of Money and
 Friends I entered myself on board an *East-India* Man,
 and prosecuted my former intended Voyage, suffering
 many Miseries by the way; but at last coming be-
 fore *Diu* we found many Ships firing upon the Castle
 in a hostile manner, and therefore not knowing the
 cause we made to Sea again, and sailed to *Goa*, a
 large City inhabited by the *Portuguese*, and being
 upon a Trading Voyage we left that Place, and
 touched at many others, where I made a curious in-
 quiry into the Manners, Customs and Religion of
 the Natives, and found them for the most part
 strange, and in some Places inhuman, and mon-
 strous: and at last coming into *Smalley* Road, I found
 there some *English* Ships, and being, by this time,
 very desirous to see my Native Country, I prevailed
 with my *Portugal* Captain, in lieu of the Pay that
 I had due to me when I should return into *Portugal*,
 to dismiss me; and thereupon, with much Joy, I en-
 tered myself on board an *English*-man, being in a
 manner extasied, thus unexpectedly to enjoy again
 the Company of my Country-men, and they hearing
 me relate my many misfortunes and miseries since
 I first put to Sea, could do no less than condole me;
 and now I studied nothing more than to be an abso-
 lute Seaman, using myself, to be the better familiar
 with them, to all the hardships (which indeed are
 very

very many and great) to which Sea-men are accustomed or wont to undergo : and after some time, going ashore at *Bantam*, then an *English* Factory, I was very curious to pry into the way of Trade, and finding the Natives free to trust the Merchants till a certain Day the Ships *Cargo* was taken in, knowing to what Ship they belonged, I altered my Habit, and pretending myself to be a Merchant, took a considerable quantity of valuable Goods that would lie in a small stowage of a Bannian, and in the dusk of the Evening conveyed them on Board, stowing them in the side of the Ship, where I had loosened a lining Plank for that purpose. The Day being come wherein I was to make Payment or return satisfaction in Commodity, my Chapman came on Board, and enquired for such a Merchant (for I had given him a false Name) that bought of him, and brought on Board such Goods ; but the Captain told him there was no such belonged to that Ship : whereupon the *Indian* imagining it was a Trick put upon him, desired to see our Men, adding that he was confident he knew him again if he saw him : the Captain to gratify him, as not daring to do otherwise, caused us to come upon the Deck, where this cunning Infidel took a narrow survey of us, one by one, and coming to me made a stop, at which my Heart was at my Mouth, thinking now I should be punished for breaking my Promise of Amendment, and living honestly, whilst I was under the Apprehensions of Death in *Newgate*. Having thoroughly ey'd me, he ran to the Captain, telling him I should be the Man, but I was a white Man, and had two Sees or Eyes ; for indeed when I undertook this Exploit, I had smeered my Face, and put a patch upon one of my Eyes, yet I was strictly examin'd, but to no purpose, for I obstinately denied ever to have seen this Man. Notwithstanding for this Fact of mine, some

of our Ships Company going on Shoar the next Day, this *Bannian* infligated divers of his Accomplices to fall upon them, who killed one and wounded the rest, they hardly saving their Lives by flight to the Ship; which cautioned me not for a considerable time to go on Shoar, and when I did I had like to have been assassinated, had I not been wary and fore-armed, by which means I destroyed my intended Destroyer; and from that time proceeded with more security, Drinking at my Landing, Rack, Pouch and Tea, often to excess, using especially one House, where for the *Indian-Woman's* sake that kept it there was great Resort, who was indeed the handsomest that I had seen in the Country; so that perceiving she began to court me, and, after her rude way, shew many Tokens of her sincere Love, perceiving at the same time, that she was very Rich, I got leave of my Captain in consideration she would become a Christian, to marry her, which she accordingly doing, we were married.

C H A P. XVI.

He contemplates his Settlement with his Indian Wife. An English Ship arrives, wherein are two of his former Mistresses in disguise. And of the Acquaintance he gains, &c.

BEING settled once more with a Wife, though a dark one, I was much respected both by Natives and Strangers, and what Money my Spouse got, which was not small by reason of the Trade we drove, I layed out for such advantagious Bargains as I could purchase, which I as advantagiously sold to the *European Merchants* and *Factors* that Traded in this Port; and what leisure time I had, I spent in
visiting

visiting the Country, and gaining knowledge of all that was any ways remarkable, which I did; as likewise to speak the Language in a short time, so that for the pleasantness of the Place, with which I was mightily taken, I began to think of spending the rest of my days in this remote part of the World, living in the midst of Plenty and in abundance of Felicity; nor long was it, to the furthering of my Happiness, but several *English* Ships arrived at this Port, richly laden, against whose coming I had provided all sorts of Liquors and Provisions that the Country afforded: and so it fell out that the Captain and four more that belonged to one of the Ships took up their Lodging near my House, by which means I had their Company every Day, who were very well pleased with my Conversation, and upon two of these I more especially cast my Eyes, for they appeared exceeding beautiful, so that I began to suspect by many Passages I had observed, that they were not what they appeared to be, which made me conclude they were either Women in that Disguise, or some Persons that had concealed their Quality, and therefore resolved if possible to make a full Discovery: in order to which I singled out one of the Company in the absence of the rest, and having drank him to a considerable Pitch, I entreated him to answer me one question, which he promised to do; but when he heard what it was I desired to be informed of, he stood for some time mute, and then told me there was nothing besides that, I could have asked him, which with more unwillingness, he would gratify me in; however, since his Promise was past, if I would engage to be secret and not disclose it without his consent, he would fully satisfy me; which with some protestations, I promising to observe, he told me plainly they were Women, who, for the Love of the Captain and his Friend, had undertaken to tra-

vel thus far, and that they had nightly the Enjoyment of them; and in return or requital of this Discovery, I proceeded to give him an account of the past Actions of my Life, at which he stood amazed.

C H A P. XVII.

He discovers his two former Mistresses, viz. a young Gentlewoman he had bereaved of her Virginity at the Boarding School: and the Farmer's Daughter whom he deceived in the Country, and has the Relation from the first of her various Fortunes since he left her.

ALthough I was thus far satisfied, yet I was very desirous to know who these Women were, for I could not but fancy I had seen them somewhere in *England*, and soon, as I wished, I found them retired by themselves, the Men being all gone on Board to manage the Affairs of the Ship; wherefore addressing myself with much Respect and Reverence, I entreated them not to be offended or amazed if my prying eyes had pierced into their secret quality, for I was confident they were not what by their Garbs they seemed to be; at which they blushed and looked wishfully upon each other; but I still pressing them to pardon my boldness, for the secret should pass no farther, they took courage, and ingeniously confessed they were of the other Sex, and promised me I should, which I most passionately desired, see them in few days in their own Garbs, which accordingly I did, being invited by the Captain on board his Ship; and then I having been a long time accustomed only to the Sight of the Natives, imagined I never had seen
any

any Women so lovely and charming, telling them that if the Prince of this Country was but sensible what a Treasure he had within the Power of his Dominion, he would immediately covet to be possessed of it: to which one of them briskly, though modestly, replied, though she could not persuade herself any such excellency remained in her, yet the choice she had made she preferred to all the Princes in *Asia*, nor could she expect any such solid content in any. and so having spent the time in merriment to the great satisfaction of both Parties, I took my leave, inviting them the next day to my House, where I highly entertained them; when after the repast, our two Mistresses, by reason of the Heat, continued still with me; and being left by their Enamorato's whilst they went to take in some Goods, I thought it was now my time to discourse with them, and being free with each other, I soon found that I had been intimately acquainted with them in *England*, one of them being a young Gentlewoman, whom in the Boarding-School I had deceived in Female habit, and the other the Farmer's Daughter whom I had left with Child, at which unexpected meeting they wept, nor could I refrain comforting them in the best manner, promising them my assistance in any Affair whatsoever, and heartily begged their Pardon for what was past, which cleared up the show'rs that clouded their Eyes; and so I proceeded to intreat them to let me know how it had fared with them since we saw each other in *England*, and especially what was become of the hopeful Fruits of our stol'n Loves, and this they promised me in order, and first my Boarding-School Mistress, whose name was *Mary*, began.

I remewber, said she, after you had gotten your ends of me and several others, in all to the number of eight, you made your escape, nor indeed, by rea-

son of my youth and innocence, did I know the danger I was in, but supposed my Qualms and Sickness to be accidental; but our Mistress who was better experienced soon suspected the cause, and upon strict examination found the naked Truth, which occasioned a speedy Pursuit after you, but by a lucky mistake, it seems, you escaped the purposed revenge, which was, if you had been taken, as we once had notice you were, to make you an Eunuch at least, but it seemed a Mistake, for instead of you your Friend was brought to our Mistress, who, after she had stormed thereat, was constrained, with as little Noise as possible, to give our Friends and Relations an account of what had happened; upon which my Father, though before he loved me, utterly renounced me, yet his hatred towards me was not so great but that he connived, as I well understood, at my Aunt's receiving of me, with whom, for the better privacy, I lived, mewed up like a Hawk, till I was delivered of a Girl; which, to prevent my further disgrace, was sent into the Country, and from that time, though I laboured to do it, I could get no knowledge of it; yet being freed from my Burthen with much secrecy, I appeared abroad, with strict caution never to commit the like Folly again: and passing for a Virgin of considerable Fortune, my Father being known to be very rich, I was courted by a young Gentleman of a plentiful estate, who not only made me divers Presents, but used all the endeavours possibly to please me, as the time permitted, and sought every opportunity that might give occasion of introducing him into my Company; and so pleased he was with me, that he pressed my Aunt to persuade me to give my consent, who not only did her endeavours, but acquainted my Father with the Overture, who by this time, somewhat relenting, and taking Pity of my tender frailty, did not only

approve

approve of it, but offered a considerable sum of Money; so that no obstacle remaining, our Wedding was agreed upon, and my Joynture proposed, when as my unlucky Stars would have it, my Maid, who was privy to my former misfortune, having taken pet at some language I had given her for her too much confidence and intrusion into my Affairs, concluded to be revenged in the overthrowing my approaching Felicity, and at several times having received considerable Gifts from my Lover, she one day singled him out, and told him, that in meer compassion to him to prevent his being abused, she thought it convenient, before he married, to reveal a Secret, upon which his future Tranquility or Misfortune might depend; and thereupon, to his no small amazement, she told him that if he married me he must expect to be a Father the first day, and so declared from point to point, all that had befallen me; to which at first he could not give credit, considering the modest reception I made to his Addresses, and therefore resolved to inform himself further by experience, wherefore he enjoyned her silence, upon the promise of a considerable Reward if she obeyed: and so, soon after, he prevailed with my Aunt to let me ride abroad with him to take the Air, which at first she refused, but at last, through importunity, he prevailed; and coming to a Tavern, some miles distant from *London*, he there treated me to an extraordinary height, and procured the Hostler to prick his Horses foot, that he might have a longer pretence of staying, calling for Wine he made me drink by sundry devices and intreaties, so high, that I became in a manner stupid, and then he began to rumage my Placket; and soon found my Virginity had made its *Exit*, though at that time he proceeded no further than to give himself an outward Assurance, and

so carried me home; where, upon our Arrival my Aunt chid us both severely for our unseasonable staying abroad, but he now little regarding it, made many careless replies, though I on the contrary used all means imaginable to pacify her, by urging my obedience to a Man, whom I could esteem no other than my Husband, seeing our Marriage was altogether concluded on: however he came not near me for several days, but sent for my Maid, and procured her to persuade me to meet him without the knowledge of my Aunt, which accordingly, unhappy to my Peace, I did; and then he persuaded me to be ruled by him, and betake myself to a Lodging he had provided for me, till he could prepare things in order for our Marriage, which, upon many Intreaties and large Promises, I consented to; but when Night came, and we had all the day passed for Man and Wife, I knew not how to behave myself, many things I urged against going to Bed with him, but by his reiterated protestations of Marriage the next Day, he over-persuaded me, and I again yielded to Folly; after which, he made many delays, and in the end absolutely left me; when resolving to cast myself rather into the Arms of Fortune than to return to my Aunt, it was not long e'er I was solicited by a seeming grave Gentlewoman, to sojourn at her House, who over and above defrayed the charge of my Lodging; yet I soon found I was again trapped, for she proved to be no better than a Higler in human Flesh, exposing the use of mine to her Customers, often selling that for a Maiden head that was long before cancelled: but in some time being grow expert in the way, I set up for myself, yet at last being troubled with sundry hangers on who had spent their Estates upon me, and finding the trouble of a common Trade unsupportable, I betook myself to a single Person, for whose sake I have

have ventured thus far; and thus you have briefly heard how I have fared since you left me.

C H A P. XVIII.

He intreats the like Account from the second, and is gratified therein, being very pleasant and comical; with all the Circumstances that attended the Progress of her Life and Actions. His Wife poisons them, kills herself. He meets with another of his Mistresses, returns for England, and is Shipwreck'd.

I Having heard this pleasing Relation from my first Mistress, was greatly desirous to know the Adventures of the second, wherefore I became very earnest in persuading her to be free in the Relation; in which, after some seeming unwillingness, she condescended to gratify me, considering a great part of the Day remained unspent, and so she proceeded in order.

You are not, said she, insensible of the condition you left me in, nor was it long before it more fully manifested, for I was, at the expiration of the usual time, delivered of a curious Boy, which my Mother, to hide my shame, and the stain it would cast upon our Family, committed to the charge of a parcel of strolling Gypsies, with a sum of money, and all other necessaries, though extreamly against my will; but no sooner was I got up again, e'er I found by the secret whispering in the Neighbourhood, that my Fault was discovered, which made me earnest with my Parents, who entirely loved me, to send me to *London*, which accordingly they, not without regret, did; and so it fell out that the Master of the Inn where I first alighted, at that time wanting a Servant, there I was entertained; but long I had not continued

need diligent in this Service, before my Master's
 Brother and two more that were Lodgers there, cast
 not only their Eyes but their Affections upon me,
 and by degrees, with large promises and gifts, pre-
 vailed upon my Female frailty, though unknown to
 each other, which gave me, when I grew pregnant,
 an opportunity to fleece them, and accordingly I
 did, getting in Bonds and Money very considerable,
 and so prepared once more for the Contry; but
 alighting at an Inn upon the Road, I was severely
 eyed by a Person in Female habit, who indeed pro-
 ved to be no other than a Woman who waited there
 for such a Prize as myself, and understanding my
 condition by many observations she made, I was de-
 sired to give her my Company in a private Room,
 the which, after some scruples on my part, and many
 on hers, I did; and then she began to embrace me
 in her Arms, and promise me a World of fortunate
 success; but to be brief her design was to find whe-
 ther or no I was with Child, the which she having
 done, and being fully satisfied how it came about,
 told me that a golden Offer attended me, and a
 great Estate my Child, if I would yield myself to be
 wholly governed by her Counsel and Directions;
 but before I would consent, I desired her to declare
 herself; and thereupon she told me that she was
 employed by a Gentlewoman who had a Hus-
 band that was an infirm Man, and she her self,
 though she had many ways tryed for an Heir
 to save her Husband's Estate from going to the
 next Brother, who had been the occasion of her
 Barrenness, and of her Husband's defect, by fini-
 ster ways, through the Means of Purgations and
 Poisons, could not have one of her own, but had
 contrived to get one of another's, to frustrate his
 hopes, whom she mortally hated; and that my
 Child, if I so consented, should enjoy the Estate.
 To this, after I had a little considered, I agreed;

and

and therefore was conducted to the Gentlewoman, who seeing my Garb and Beauty, took me for some extraordinary Person, and could not at first believe that I would condescend to her Request; but being better satisfied by the old Woman, she crammed several pieces of Gold into my Hand, as an Earnest of a greater Sum; and thereupon appointed me a private Lodging, with a l manner of necessaries, about a Mile from her House, and still as my Belly increased, she having before given out she was with Child, hers increased by artificial Means, and when my Throws came upon me, she had speedy notice of it and counterfeited the like, which made her Husband both grieve and rejoice, the first for the pain he supposed his Wife endured, and the second in hopes he should have an Heir; and no sooner was I delivered, but the old Matron, that attended me, wrapped up my Child and carried it privately to the Gentlewoman, when lifting up the Cloaths she softly tumbled it into the Bed, and then she counterfeiting what is usual in that case, it was again taken from her, and the Women which were about her being obliged to keep the Fallacy private, it being a Boy, passed current for hers, to the great Joy of the Husband and Discontent of the Brother, who now supposing his stratagem, to prevent her conceiving, had failed, in a melancholy Humour betook himself to travel: and now perceiving my Child exceeding well provided for, and no cost spared in Nurses, or whatever else was requisite, and having received a Hundred Pieces of Gold, and some other Presents, I again returned to *London*, yet shunned my former amorous Companions, and placed myself in another Inn where for a time I lived very civil, but in the end came acquainted with a Person under whose protection I now am, having seen, and passed through, many and various Adventures in Expectation of seeing you,

on whom my first Love and intire Affections were settled, which satisfaction I now unexpectedly enjoy.

She would have proceeded, but was interrupted by the coming in of divers Strangers; and now having continued in all manner of felicity, and the Ship being in a manner laden, I had frequent debates with myself whether I should pack up all I had and embark again for my native Country: But whilst these things were in my Head, my Wife fell desperately in Love with these two supposed Gentlemen, and to heighten the Comedy though it proved a Tragedy in the end, I persuaded them to give way to her Addresses; and to ingratiate herself the more, she blacked her Face to a greater degree than Nature had ordered the Women of that Country, accounting it as the chiefest part of their Beauty; with which she coming to Bed to me that Night, I being somewhat fluster'd, so besmear'd me, that rising the next Morning, and not being sensible of the alteration, I could not for a time prevail with my Companions to credit me that I was myself. However she still increased in her amorous way, watching when she might get any of these two alone, which one time she did, and assaulted them so rudely in the way of her Courting, that she put them to the squeak, and much ado they had to prevent her discovering what Sex they were of; of which I having notice, gave her a severe check; whereupon she fell upon her Knees and implored my Pardon, intreating me to forgive this offence, and she would ever be humble and obedient for the future; the which, when she perceived, I making some scruple to do, the better to let her know how much I was incens'd, she drew a Dagger out of her Pocket and offered to sheath it in her Breast, but being prevented she soon after mixed strong Poison to make herself away; whereupon

whereupon I was obliged to give her abundance of good Words, assuring her I was altogether pacified, sealing my protestations with a Kiss; notwithstanding I found she still hankered after these fair *Europeans*, and appeared much melancholy and discontented the Day she saw them not, and would often make excuses to visit them, which gave them so much trouble by reason of her rude behaviour, that upon their intreaty I found myself obliged to command her to refrain from coming into their Apartment, which raised such a Hell in her mind, that she could not rest till she had bribed an *Indian* Wench who waited on them to mix a flask of *Persian* Wine, their usual Drink in a Morning, with strong Poison, which herself prepared, resolving none should enjoy those Beauties which she thought mistaking at the same time the Sex, was forbidden to converse withal; and accordingly her project took effect, for Mrs. *Mary* immediately died, her Hair, Nails and Teeth presently falling off and out, by the subtil Operation of the Venom; and the other who had drank but slenderly, was for a long while bereaved of her Senses; and this was the disaster of my two Mistresses.

This wicked Fact committed, the Actress fled, and was some time after found dead in a Wood miserably rent by wild Beasts, and my Wife fearing to be discovered, killed herself with a Dagger she privately wore, so that though I grieved at the misfortune of these two Women, whose Virgin Innocence I had betrayed, exposing them thereby to a desperate Fortune; yet by the shift I was rid of a Wife I no ways affected, and now I absolutely determined to return for *England*, and thereupon played my Cards the best I could to get in Goods of the Natives, some of which I payed for, and others I took upon short credit, according as the custom is; and
watching

watching the time the Ship was to sail, I embarked
 with all my Cargo, yet wanting full freight we sailed
 to *Surat*, where an *English* Ship was just arrived be-
 fore us; and here upon my landing, I was encoun-
 ter'd by a stripling or seeming Gentleman, who fix-
 ing his Eyes on me, desired to have some Words
 with me in private; which granted he fell to re-
 proaching me at a strange rate by the Epithets of
 base, perjured, ingrateful and treacherous; which
 did not a little amaze me, and made me inquire
 into the cause, when soon I found that this seeming
 Gentleman, was no other than *Jane* my fellow ser-
 vant whom I had gotten with Child at my Master's,
 as has been related before, and whom I had un-
 kindly trapp'd on Board a *Virginia* man, which
 made me after I had begged pardon and hush'd her,
 inquire of her Adventures; who told me her Child
 died for want of convenient necessaries at Sea, and
 herself was reduced to so sad a condition through
 sickness and discontent, that no Person would buy
 her; so that the Master concluding she could not live
 many Days, set her on Shoar to dis-incumber him-
 self of her; where in her languishing condition, she
 found so much compassion from a charitable Gentle-
 woman, as to be received into her House, and pro-
 vided for, which again brought her to her Strength
 and natural Complection, insomuch that divers Per-
 sons courted her: but being desirous to see her na-
 tive Country, and find me out if possible, the Cap-
 tain, with whom she now was, prevail'd with her,
 upon a promise to marry her as soon as he came
 into *England*, to accompany him, which accord-
 ingly she did, and replying upon that Promise, she
 suffer'd him to enjoy her: but upon his Arrival he
 plainly told her he could not perform what he had
 propos'd, by reason he had a Wife living, but that
 she

she notwithstanding, should have the best place in his Affections; and thereupon providing her these Cloaths and all other Necessaries, she had once more adventured to Sea with him: however upon new protestations of Constancy and real Affection, and a hearty sorrow for what was past, laying it upon the fear of my Master's Anger, I prevailed with her not only to come on Board our Ship just as we were setting Sail, but likewise to bring with her five hundred pieces of Eight, a Box of rough Diamonds, and many other things of value, and so we came for England, leaving only these Lines on shoar, for the Captain, that he might know what was become of his Mistress and Money, &c. viz.

*Captain, we now are quit against your will,
This is the Sum that must discharge our Bill:
Imprimis, so much for lying by her side.
And breaking promise, made her not your Bride.
Item, for changing Petticoats for Hose,
Item, for something which I won't disclose.
Item, for making such a pretty toy,
Your wanton Mistress, and your Cabbin boy;
Wham morning, noon, and sometimes very late,
Fail'd not to make your charming trickre-mate.
Thus stands th' Account, and now we're reveng'd just,
Discharging you of what we did intrust:
If not quite Broke, for some new Credit look,
You ne'er shall enter more into my Book.*

Being gotten over the Bar with all our Sails spread before the Wind, not without some firing after us, because we went off without leave, we sailed before a prosperous Gale till we came within ten Leagues of the West of England, but then a Storm arising, we were driven off to Sea, and continually

tinually bandied too and fro, till such time as the greatest part of our ill gotten Goods were damaged and spoiled by the coming in of the Salt Water; but that which followed was worse, it so happened that at length we fell foul of a Rock which broke our Vessel in pieces, and now every one providing for his own safety, our Boat being before broke loose, and lost in the Storm, I not capable to take my Mistress with me, who cryed after me for help, got upon a piece of the Main-Mast, and so backing the Waves committed myself to their Mercy, and the Guidance of Fortune, who had hitherto at Sea rendered me unfortunate, and so for the space of two Days and as many Nights, I lay hulling up and down till almost quite spent, when so it happened when Death began gasily to stare me in the Face, and all my former iniquities came fresh into my mind I was taken up by a small Fisher-boat that had been driven out to Sea by stress of Weather, and set on shoar at *Southampton*, which made me fall on my knees and give Praise and Thanks to my Deliverer, protesting and resolving with myself for the future to live honestly, seeing such dreadful Mischiefs and Dangers attend an evil course of Life: but the *Ethiopian* cannot change his Skin, nor indeed could I my wicked Practices, to which I had accustomed myself, though for a while the danger I had escaped being fresh in my memory, put a stop to my full career in Villany.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

Being Ship-wrack'd in his Return from India, he is cast on shoar. Discovers a pleasant Adventure. Is tempted a Conjurer. Plays many strange Exploits, and helps a Rich Virgin to a Husband. Gets into a Gentlewoman's private Favour, and being like to be surprized by the Husband, she wittily brings him off.

BEING again cast into the Ballance of Poverty, by this unexpected Loss, I found myself necessitated to employ my Wits; and it being late and I moneyless, I was yet loth to lie in the Street, and therefore went boldly to a private House, and making my Condition known to the Maid that came to the door, she related it to her Mistress, who finding my request was only for a Lodging, with some unwillingness, as pretending she was a new married Woman, her Husband out of Town, her Servants few, and that there might be danger and scandal in lodging a Man in her House in her Husband's Absence (pretending to an extraordinary stock of modesty and much chaste reservedness, she at length ordered the Maid to shew me into the Garret, where in a corner of it, I found an old flock Quilt and a Coverlid, where Madam's Lap Dogs it seems were used to take their Repose: however, I thought this, though a hard one, better than my Lodging upon the Waves: yet being both hungry and dry, and finding by what already I understood it would be in vain to ask for a further supply in these Quarters, weary as I was, I laid me down, but could not sleep, my Guts and Stomach kept such a grumbling,

bling, when for a while I perceived all were still, but after that my Ears were saluted with the going of a Jack, which still made my Appetite more keen: nor long was it before I heard the Door open and a Man's Voice, which being at a very late Hour, and the Maid having told me there was not any Man a Retainer to the House but her Master, who was not that night at home, it put me upon the Curiosity of Discovery; whereupon I arose, dressed me I need not, for I had laid down in my Cloaths to save my Bones the better from the hardness of the Bed, and sneaking down, I planted myself where I could plainly perceive a good Supper going forwards, as also a Gentleman very familiar with the pretended coy Mistress of the House; whom by some Words they let fall, I knew to be none of her Husband, and therefore resolved to make my best advantage of it, at least to put in for a share of the Supper, which was no sooner placed on the Table, but a loud knocking at the Door was heard, which made them stare upon each other; when the Maid, who was sent to see what it meant returned, almost breathless with running, and assured them it was her Master; upon which her Mistress ordered her to delay him Entrance as long as, without giving him suspicion, she could; and thereupon immediately concealed her Gallant in the next Room behind the Hangings, and clapped the Dishes, Meat and Wine, &c. into the Closet, by which time her Husband was entered, whom she welcom'd and saluted with much seeming Joy for his Return, though she could heartily have wished him, perhaps, in the Red Sea: but he being somewhat surpris'd to see so large a Fire at that time of night, after he had saluted her, asked her the cause of it: Oh! Husband, said she, I have been troubled with a terrible Fit of the Cholick, and was forced to make this Fire to heat Trenchers to lay to my Belly: I am sorry for that, said he, but I was better

better in hopes that you had dressed a good Joint of
 Meat, that I might have found some of it for my
 Supper, for I never was so hungry in all my Life:
 O Lord, Husband! said she, do you think I am so
 prodigal to dress Suppers in your absence? no indeed,
 both I and my Maid supped with a Couple of Eggs:
 but I who knew the contrary, finding my Landlord
 very urgent for something to be got ready, and
 having taken an exact Bill of the Fare, approach-
 ed from my Coverture, and having begged par-
 don for my bold intrusion, told him that having
 heard him so earnest for something to eat, in re-
 quital for the Entertainment I had received, I re-
 solved for the more speed, to supply him with
 a Banquet, and not only him but his good Lady,
 and all the Family; which not only amazed him,
 but put her into a bodily fear, expecting no less than
 that I had been a spy upon her Actions, and would
 discover the whole Intrigue: however, not being
 contradicted, I made a Circle, and waving a switch
 I had round my Head, instead of a Magick wand,
 I commanded my Spirit, without any noise, invisibly
 to obey my Command, and therefore after the utter-
 ing some Canting words, instead of Conjurati-
 on, I spoke in feigned voice as if I had been answered
 by somebody in the Closet, and then demanded what
 they would be accommodated withal, to which they
 replied, what I pleased; then I began to name the
 particulars I had seen placed there, and then after ano-
 ther eccho of my voice telling them that I was
 obeyed, I commanded the Maid to open the Closet,
 where we found all things in order, and so with
 some scruple of my Landlord, who, though an hun-
 gry, was yet unwilling to eat any of the Devil's
 Cooking, as he supposed this to be, we all fell too
 and fed heartily: then was the Gentleman desirous
 to see this Spirit that had been so kind to furnish us
 with this Provision, to which I consented, saying he
 should

should pass through the Room in a human shape, if all present would oblige themselves not to speak a word till he was gone out at the Door, which I commanded to be set open, lest he should take a window or the side of the House with him; and then giving the *Item* to him that all this while stood shivering behind the Hangings for fear of being discovered, that this was his only time to escape, he was not so dull, but laying hold of this opportunity, he passed swiftly by to the great fear and amazement of my Landlord, but to the great content of my Landlady, who the next morning very kindly thanked me for bringing her off so genteely; and this being soon noised abroad, I was taken for an absolute Conjuror or Fortuneteller.

Long it was not after this exploit, but a stale Virgin of some Quality, having heard of my Fame, came privately to my Lodging in a Coach, and indeed she was very rich, though Nature had cast her in her roughest mould and rendered her homely; and although she had before shewed no disposition to alter her Condition, yet now she would needs know of me when she would have a Husband, and what manner of Man the Fates had decreed for her: to resolve this Question I told her required time and caution, and I would rather undertake it, that she might the better prosper in her Wedlock, by the Rules of Astrology, the which, as I further told her, I must not do, by reason I must calculate her Nativity, before a benevolent Aspect warranted my Progress therein: How long will it then be, said she, before you can certify me? Why Madam, said I, if you come to morrow in the Evening I will not fail to give you a full answer to your demand. At this she seemed not a little joyful; and thereupon the better to encourage my Worship in making a diligent search into the scroles of Destiny, she fastened an Angel upon

upon me in earnest of a better Reward, and very thankfully for that time took her leave.

My longing Virgin being gone, I soon by inquiry understood she was a considerable Fortune, and that there was a younger Brother watched all opportunities to tender his Service to her, but what through bashfulness, want of opportunity, and despair or distrust of success, he had not hitherto done it: to this Blade I sent, who immediately came, wondering what my Business was, whereupon I acquainted him, that having lately seen him by chance, I had read such good Fortune in his Face, as had obliged me to calculate his Nativity, and that I found him the Favourite of the Stars, if he would be so wise or kind to himself as not to let slip the golden Opportunity they offered: at this he stood amazed, and humbly begged me to explain my meaning: why, said I, there is a mighty Fortune promised you, a Wife exceeding Rich: and who may it be, said he, almost leaping for Joy; that matters not, said I, but if you will be ruled by me, I will put her into your Power; to this he readily consented, promising to gratify me in the highest nature if he succeeded; wherefore I ordered him at such a time to walk in such a place, and the Gentlewoman should meet him exactly at a time prefixed, and fall extreamly enamour'd of him: but before I will, said I, confirm this Happiness to you, I expect a Bond of fifty Pounds to be payed upon the Day of Marriage, a small matter out of three thousand Pounds, which is her Portion: at this he bogled not in the least, but presently signed and sealed, delivering it to my use; whereupon I described her, and ordered him to complement her to a Tavern when he met her in the place appointed. The Business being in this forwardness, the Gentlewoman at the time appointed came, against which I had appointed a great deal of scrabble or cringle-cran-

gle, and so from thence began to take the height of her Fortune, you have, said I, Madam, never yet been crossed in Love nor troubled with many Suitors. No, said she, and this I gathered from her Deformity, but, continued I, by your too much reservedness and long living a Virgin, you have almost lost the favour of the Stars. I hope, said she, 'tis but almost, not altogether : Indeed, said I, I have been very importunate with the Spirits of the Air to turn back the Wheel of Fate, or it had been your hard Fortune to have died a Maid : at this she started and seemed somewhat discomposed, but now, said I, I have prevailed with the Genij or good Angels, for some small time to keep that Decree from being registered, and to morrow about four of the Clock if you take a walk in such a Place, I will prevail with the Spirit that drives the Chariot of *Venus* to prevail with his Mistress that you may there meet with the Man who is designed to be your Husband, and pray be not coy lest you overslip the happy Moment, he is young and handsome, and the Token is, that he shall all on a sudden fix his Eyes upon you, fall desperately in Love, and tender his Service to you, which refuse not, but comply with what he modestly requires, for he will instantly intreat you to go with him to a Tavern ; nor shall you separate before the happy union is confirmed by the ties of Matrimony : at this overjoyed, she drew out a piece of Gold and presented me with it, promising to observe all that I had directed : but Madam, said I, this is a small Reward, though as for my Labour, which had it been to do any young Gentlewoman good, it would sufficiently, but the Angel of the North has mightily stood your friend in this matter, and he will take it ill if there be no Present made him for his kindness, and may, peradventure, taking pet for the being no better regarded, club with some malevolent Star to

blast

blast your approaching happiness : How ! Sir, said she, starting and looking pale through the effects of fear, I hope not so, but however Sir, said she, what will content him ? Madam, said, that Diamond Ring upon your Finger is most proper, for Money he takes none : at this she paused a while, yet in the end drew it off and desired me to be so kind as to present it, for, continued she, I know not where to find him ; and thereupon dropping me a low Curtsy she departed ; and these two at the time appointed meeting, concluded the Marriage, and I afterwards had my Money, and some considerable Advantages over and above, besides the Fame I got of being a great Astrologer.

And now the Gentlewoman, who had made the Supper for her Friend, which I discovered to her Husband, frequently visited me, and often gave me thanks for bringing her so fairly off ; and thereupon invited me, who had now taken an Apartment of my own, to pay her a Visit in her Husband's absence, which accordingly I did, and offered my further Service to please her in the height of enjoyment, which she at first in a seeming anger refused, but I plainly perceiving a yielding in her Eyes, I so prosecuted my Suit, that between willing and unwilling, with some small struggling, she fell in my Arms and melted in a Rapture of Love. But as it happened to her quondam Friend, so, and worse it had befallen me, had not her sudden Wit, which in a Woman is most acute, prevented it ; for whilst we lay folded in the soft Chains of Love and Pleasure, we heard the good Man, who was somewhat ancient, and had by a misfortune lost the sight of one of his Eyes, coming up stairs, and was almost entered before we could disengage ; however I got under the Bed, and she with open Arms and much seeming Joy went to meet him, when catching him about the Neck, with a dissembling

bling kiss she said, O Lord ! Husband, how dear welcome are you to me, especially at this time when I so earnestly longed to see you : for what cause said he ? what is the meaning of this Language ? O my dear ! replied she, as I lately went to take a Nap I had the pleatantest Dream in the World, methought a Man in shining Raiment stood by me, and delivered a glass of water, and thereupon telling me he had brought it to restore your sight, he vanished in a flame ; at which starting from my Dream this Glass stood by my Bed-side, which confirmed it ; therefore pray sit down and let me instantly apply some of it to your Eyes that we may not seem to slight so precious a favour so miraculously conferred upon us ; at this he at first laughed, but she intreating him to suffer it, he at last consented, when holding open both his Eyes, she with a feather dipped in Vinegar, for such it was, so bespatter'd his seeing Eye, by a wilful mistake, that the pain made him cry out she had now quite blinded him, I was not so remiss as to slip so fair an opportunity, but crawling out on all fours, sneaked down stairs unseen and so escaped the danger.

C H A P. XX.

He comes for London, commits many Extravagancies by the way. He sets up for an Inn-keeper, and gives a Relation of sundry frauds and devices he used to get Money by, and recounts some strange Adventures, &c.

Resolving now for London in order to gain some Settlement, if any such thing can agree with a Rambling head, I packed up my Awls and set for-

wards

wards with such Money as I got, but wanting a Horse I proposed to purchase one at a Fair held for Horses and other Cattle, lying in my Road, but was furnished e'er I arrived there, at an easier rate, for finding a Fellow drunk upon a good Beast in the Road, the Horse likewise standing very still, I got four Hedge-stakes of equal Length, and fixing their sharp Ends in the Ground, ungirthed the Saddle and supporting it with the Stakes, drew the Horse from under him, and leaving him so mounted upon his wooden Supporters, away I rode to the next Town, and there bought me a Saddle, but wanting a Pair of Boots I resolved to have them at an easier Rate; therefore planting my Horse at some distance that I might easily mount when I saw Occasion, I went to a Shoemaker's shop and cheapening a Pair, drew them on to try if they would fit, when complaining of their straitness, whilst the Shoemaker was busy in looking out another Pair, I started out of the Shop and betook me to my Heels, which he perceiving followed me, crying stop him, stop him, whilst I cried louder, a Race, stop me not, for I run with him at the Disadvantage of having Boots on to his Shoes: upon which the People on every hand giving Way, I soon got to Horse, and mounting, was quickly out of Reach, nor did I stop till I came to the Place intended; and now, as I said, resolving upon some Settlement, I hearkened out for an Inn, which I soon heard of, thinking that the best where I might have conversation with all sorts of Company; and having the best Part of an Hundred Pound, which by the former ways mentioned, and many other Tricks and sleights, I had gotten, being now worn out of Remembrance with my Creditors, I proceeded to take it at a venture, and retained the Servants that formerly belonged to the last that occupied it: but finding my stock a little scanty, I resolved to increase it

by the Sail of my Diamond Ring, that should have been presented to the Angel of the North ; and there upon I went and offered it to a Goldsmith, demanding his Judgment what it was worth ; who supposing I was ignorant of the Value, told me he believed it might be worth ten Pounds. I hope so, Sir, said I, and a great deal more; not much, said he, fifteen at the Extremity, and so much I will venture to give for it if it be right; for, says he, here is one that I will warrant to be so, which I would be glad to sell for twenty Pounds: It may be so, Sir, said I, but pray let me see it a little, that I may compare them when having it in my Hand, and perceiving he set it at that Price only to wheedle me, it being of a far greater Value: and you will, Sir, said I, sell this for twenty Pounds? Ay, said he, with all my Heart, and get by it too, for Diamonds are very cheap of late; then, said I, I will be your Chapman, and he told him out the Money, whereat he looked very blank, and refused to receive it, saying he knew it was but in jest: for that, Sir, said I, I have no Choice, and therefore think fit to be your Customer for this Ring; and accordingly put it into my Pocket, taking witness of my Bargain of some that stood by: but in fine, he began to storm and send for a Constable, who carried me before a Justice, who notwithstanding the Goldsmith then alledged his Ring was worth 80 Pounds, upon hearing the Witnesses, declared it was a fair Bargain, acquitted me, and indeed I soon after sold it for upwards of 70 Pounds, and my own for upwards of 50 Pounds, which put me into a good stock, so that I soon fell into a Way of Trading, and hearing the Wife I left behind me was dead, I began to conclude myself after all my sufferings, a happy Man.

Long I had not been here, but two Gentlemen

came

came with their Servants to sojourn with me whilst they stayed in Town, and the Servants mistaking their Order, came into the Kitchen, and ordered a dozen of Capons and a couple of Larks, when it should have been the contrary, to be layed down for their Supper; and although I well understood the Mistake, yet it being to my advantage I dissembled it, and accordingly they were made ready; but the Gentlemen when they came to the Table, began to bless themselves, however, I proving by my Maid that it was by their Servants order, the blame was taken off from me: yet said I, Gentlemen, you think this too much for yourselves, when, if I am not mistaken, I know one Man will eat them all at a Meal for a Wager; at which they fell into a greater Admiration, and proffered not only to pay for them, but to lay a Wager of twenty Shillings on it. Now I had heard of a Neighbour of mine that was a mighty Eater, and therefore resolved to know if he would undertake it, and delayed them till that time, under pretence that I would be first satisfied whither he had supped or not: however, he being consulted, though he said it was a hard Task, undertook it, and blessed his Maw that such dainty Morfels should fall to his Share. In fine, he eat up ten of the Capons and had the eleventh upon his Trencher, when looking upon me, he began to change Countenance, and whispering me in the Ear, told me I had lost, for he could eat no more; what is that he says, said one of the Gentlemen? why, said I, he says he could eat a Dozen more: Oh monstrous! says the other Gentlemen, this is the Devil sure! however, he shall not altogether bereave us of our Supper, and so one snatched up that which remained in the Dish, and the other that which was upon his Trencher, yielding thereby the Wager lost.

Soon after this Adventure, I had a couple of Guests came to my House, who were exceeding nig- gardly, and taking up for their Lodging a Room that I could have put to far better Use, I soon grew weary of them, yet not to be uncivil, I invented a Strata- gem in this Manner, which took Effect beyond Ex- pectation. The Room being high ceiled, I caused in the Day-time four Pulleys to be fastened in the Joists, and through them Cords to the Corners of the Bed-steads, which could not easily be discerned, and ordered the Servants to give out that that Room was haunted, and that there had been several strange Noises and Voices heard in it, which they so indu- striously did, that it came to the Ears of my Guests, who looked upon it, however, as an *Aesop's Fable*, or an old Woman's Tale; and therefore when Night came they went to Bed at the usual Hour without taking farther Notice; but having no fastning to their Door, about midnight I caused a Calf to be put into the Room, who being in the Dark fell to stamping and blateing; which waked my Guests, who now thinking *Belshazzar* was come indeed to torment them, and the Story they had heard being fresh in their Minds; they, in much Fear and Amazement shrunk under the Bed-cloaths; but at length hearing no further Noise, one of them adventured to rise, and there being some Embers of a Fire, resolved to light a Candle, but no sooner did the Calf espy the glim- mering of the Light by his Blowing, but he made thitherwards, and the Man being now upon all-fours, with his Shirt confusedly wrapped about his Waste, the Calf perceiving something like his Mother's Tet, between his Legs, with a horrible blateing seized upon it, and fell to tugging his label of mortality at such a rate that he roared out as if he had been killed; which his Companion hearing, and supposing the Devil was hoisting him into the Air, he went

to

to get out of the Bed, thinking to hide himself under it; but it being now drawn up a great Height, making a false Step, down he tumbled almost shivering his Bones to Pieces, which made him roar as loud as the other, insomuch that the whole House was alarm'd; but before a Light came in, the Bed was let down and the Calf removed; yet so far wrought the terror of it, that my Guests burnt Candle the remaining part of the Night, and early the next Morning paying their Reckoning departed, as I could wish.

One merry adventure there happened in my House which was this, we had several Beds in some Rooms, and it so fell out that a Country-man and his Wife coming to lodge there, the Man being weary went to Bed, but the Woman sat up somewhat later; when as another Person was to lodge in a second Bed, in the same Room, went to Bed likewise, and finding the Country-man fast asleep, knowing that his Wife was to come to him, exchanged Cloaths, laying his own upon the Country-man's Bed, and the Country-man's upon his, covering his Face with the Sheet, and so went to Bed to wait the Event; when some time after, the Woman coming in with a winking Light, knowing her Husband's Cloaths, went into the Stranger's Bed, who seeming to awake out of his Sleep began to embrace her, and so well performed the Business of Love, that finding he out shot her Husband by a Bar's Length, she began to suspect she was mistaken; however, being in a strange Place, and not altogether displeased with her Bed-fellow, and fearing in the Dark to run into a worse error, if she should rise, she suffered him, not without some weak strugglings to take his fill of Love, but obliged him to be gone betimes in the Morning; and accordingly he went, when the Husband waking, got out of the Bed to feel for a Chamber-pot, and being about

to enter it again, she called out to him, saying Husband, Husband, at whose Voice he turned that way, and told her he was sure he was not mistaken, but she soon made him believe the contrary, by shewing him his Cloaths, and so to Bed with her he went, not doubting but she had accompanied him all that Night.

And now though I had a pretty good Trade, yet Heaven prosper'd not my Villanies, for soon after, by an accidental Fire in the Hay-loft, my House was burnt, which obliged me, the greatest part of my Goods being lost, to leave off House-keeping, and for fear of having a House of another Nature, or one more durable, provided for me by my Creditors, I dismissed my Servants, and posted away, with what Money I had scraped together, to *Dover*, and so in the Packet-boat set Sail for *France*, where I safely landed; and there I had not long been, and taken notice of the Rarities of the City, before I was accosted by an *English* Blade, whom I had some small notice of in one of my former Rambles, and now being in a strange Country we knit our Acquaintance and Friendship more strongly; for knowing him to be a Free-Booter, I imagined we must take one and the same Course to support ourselves: but being yet full of Money we followed our Pleasure to a high Degree, and one Day upon enquiry he informed me of a famed Courtezan, whom he assured me was the most celebrated Beauty of the City, and praised her to that Degree, that I was fired to pay her a Visit, which he told me would not be accepted of unless I went alone, wherefore I entreated him to dispense with my absence till I had tryed this Adventure

Being arrived at the House, I was conducted up Stairs by a Female Scout, and very courteously received by Madam, who was indeed what Fame had reported

reported her an outward Beauty, whom with profound Reverence I saluted; but when I proposed the Matter I came about, she started and blushed as if she had not in the least suspected my intent, and pretended to much coyness and modesty, that I verily supposed her a Person of Quality, and thought that I had been imposed upon, yet soon I perceived all was but feigned to make me the more enamour'd, and to discover what Presents I intended to make, whereupon I drew out handfulls of Money, under pretence of sending for Wine and sweet Meats, but it needed not, for she had them in the House; and now she began to sit nearer me, and sometimes to smile upon me, which made me renew my Suit, and knowing nothing operates more powerfully on Women than Wealth, I presented her with a fine Watch, which so melted her Reservedness, that after an amorous kiss or two, she fell into my Arms, and I improving the Opportunity, was not idle, but proceeded to the amorous Dalliances, and often after that enjoyed her as Opportunity would give me Leave; when she was not employed with her other Amourists, though she had but few, and those of good Quality; however, my Money coming to an Ebb, I found my Entertainment more cold, and was so often put off by the Servants, by telling me she was not within, or was sick, or could not be spoken with, that I grew angry and vowed revenge, but knew I could not perform it handsomely without a Stock of Money; whereupon I consulted my Companion how we should recruit, who told me, that though extraordinary Adventures were scarce in that Country, yet he had his Mind upon one that would make us both, if it succeeded; I told him I was contented at any rate to run an equal hazard with him, and so he told me it was to rob a rich Linnen-Draper of his Cash; and thus we contrived it, we went into the Draper's

Shop and bought a considerable Parcel of Linnen giving earnest for it, but telling him withal we were to send it to *Calais* by Land, and from thence to Ship it for *England* with other Goods, and therefore desired the conveniency of the Shop to let them stand in till we could have an Opportunity to send them away: to this he readily consented, and the next Day in the Evening we sent in a Bail by a seeming Porter, supposed to be Silks and Stuffs well packed and corded, which was received without any suspicion, but proved a *Trojan Horse* to his Estate, for in it we had bundled up one of my Companion's Comrades, a Rogue, though of little Stature, yet arch enough for that purpose; who, who in the dead of night, cutting his Ways out with his Knife, let us in, who waited for that Purpose, and then, with false Keys, we opened the Counting-House, and took thence six hundred Crowns, and conveyed away with us, to prevent suspicion, the empty Covering of the Bale, and another Bale of Linnen that was already packed up; and leaving the street Door a Jar, departed, and shared our Prize; and so confident were we, that, in two Days after, we went to the Draper's, tendering the Money for the Linnen we bought, as likewise demanding the Goods that were left there for us: we could read discontent in his Visage, before he sadly told us he had been robbed since our being there, and amongst other things, they had taken our Pack away. At this, my Companion began to storm, protesting that the Value of it was at least a thousand Crowns, which I likewise confirmed, and both of us alledged, that we could believe no other than that we being Strangers, it was a Trick in him to defraud us, and that we would have satisfaction, seeing it was delivered into his Possession; and so high we grew, pretending ourselves to be Merchants, that, he to be rid of us, he

he gave us not only the Linnen we bought, but fifty Crowns over to buy our Peace.

Being now fully furnished with Money, I put myself into a very rich Garb, and again went to visit my Madam, forcing my way to her by charging through her Train of Servants with golden *French Pistoles*, and she perceiving the Case altered with me, made me as kind a Reception as at first, denying several admittance upon my account; insomuch that I presented her with a Diamond Locker of considerable Value, which she put into a Cabinet where her Treasure lay, consenting that I should have, in lieu of it, a whole nights Lodging with her precious Ladyship; and that it was that I aimed at, so that then I began to call for Wine, and so imposed upon her free Nature before Bed time, that the Creature prevailed against her; for we had not been long in Bed together, before she fell into a profound Sleep, which I taking for my time, to effect what I designed, packed up the Cabinet with sundry Pieces of Plate, and other Things of Value in my own Cloaths; and upon the Signal which was a feigned whistle, given by my Companions in the Street, I let them down by a Cord into their Possession, and so went to Bed again, and pretended to sleep so long in the Morning, that I found her awake, and then I turned to her and begged her excuse for my drowsiness, tenderly embracing her soft and delicate Body, the which, had it been chaste and she virtuous, might have given delight and satisfaction to the greatest Potentate; but looking towards the Balcony-door, which was open, I asked her the Reason why it was left so; she told me she knew nothing but the contrary when she went to Bed; and then perceiving her Cabinet not in the Place where it used to stand, she jumped out of the Bed, and cryed she was robbed and utterly undone! where-

upon I then first pretending to miss my Cloaths, made a louder Exclamation than she, telling her what vast Treasure I had about me, and therefore added, that I believed it was some Confederate of hers, that had done it, for I had been, upon the like occasion, so served in *England*, and therefore vowed immediately to send for Cloaths from my Lodging, and go to the Magistrate with my Complaint, whereupon she being descended of a good Family, and tender of the Reputation of her Friends, which might suffer in this discovery, fell on her Knees, protesting Innocency, and with Tears besought me to be pacified, and not go about to put her to any Disgrace, and although she had not the least Hand in it, but was a far greater Sufferer than myself, yet if I would require it, she protested that as soon as it lay in her Power, she would give me so much Money as I could positively affirm I had lost: this abated my seeming Anger, and I only told her at present, I would desire of her a Suit of Cloaths, that this misfortune might be concealed from my Friends, which immediately she sent for, and had with them all other necessaries for wearing; and so promising not to give her any farther Trouble I took my Leave, and knowing where to find my Companions, we shared our Prize, and it amounted to each of us 300 Crowns, nor did I fail to have my own Cloaths and my Money over and above.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

He gives a Relation of a very pleasing and profitable Adventure that happened by mistake. What he observed thereupon. And how he acquitted himself, and what ensued.

THUS heightned with success, we were yet obliged to keep close, for the most part, in the Day-time, and then we contrived what was to be done in the Night, rambling abroad as late as we durst, for fear of the Watches, and so it fortun'd that one Night, scattering to give the less occasion of suspicion, as I was making Water at a back-door that came into a by-lane, upon the sudden, turning myself, my Sword Chape hit against it, and gave a small rap, whereupon the Door opened and I heard a Female voice say, Sir, Sir, this made me turn about, when one catching hold of my Cloak, told me, in a soft whispering Tone, that now there was a convenient time of enjoying my Mistress; this unexpected Adventure did not at first a little surprize me, but recollecting myself, I considered that it must needs be some appointment, and that by a mistake I was taken for the Gentleman who was to perform the loving Combate; therefore, letting a good Face on't I followed the Maid-Servant, as I afterwards understood her to be, without making any reply, who led me by the Hand through a long dark Entry, and then up divers pair of Stairs into as dark a Chamber, and at the Bed-side left me, when immediately I heard a Female voice in Bed say softly, it is well my dear you are happily come this Night,

yet pray be silent least any over-hear us : this suiting as I could wish, I presently unstripped and soon found in the Embraces of this my unknown Mistress, all the soft endearments of a tempting Beauty ; and when she demanded any Questions, why I had been so long absent ? and why I did not oftner endeavour to make our Loves more happy ? I in a soft whispering, by which she could not discover the mistake, gave her suitable Replies, and conceited myself, in a manner, imparadised, when she took me in her Arms, desiring no more than that I could have a sight of what I guess to be, an admirable Creature, but knew such a Request would make a Discovery. And now the Day approaching, the Maid fearing we might over-sleep ourselves after such soft Recreation, came softly and whisper'd me that it was time for me to be gone, nor did I delay it, but instantly put on my Cloaths, when at the parting kiss she crammed a Purse into my Hand, in which I found afterwards twenty Pistoles, this I pocketed, and so was led out the same way I was brought in, and giving the Maid a brace of Crowns, I departed, highly pleased with my adventure, yet kept it altogether private from my Companions, as knowing it might be of further use to me.

Having marked the Place, and being very desirous to see my Mistress, I found it to be a Mercer's House, whose Shop fronted into the great Street, which made me make divers turns before it, as imagining she might look out at the Window, or come down Stairs ; nor did my expectation fail, for soon I perceived a most angelick Creature, not exceeding eighteen Years of Age, descend into the lower Apartment, *alias* Shop, and guessing it might be she, I resolved to have a more perfect view of her, and so entering, demanded to see some Stuffs, when as Fortune would have it, the Man by her Order, was just gone

gone to call his Master from a Tavern, and there-
upon she supplied his Place, so that we quickly
agreed, I not regarding the Price, for the Value was
inconsiderable; but had no sooner drawn out the
same Purse, but she fixed her Eyes upon it, and
being no Stranger to it, waxed extreamly pale,
which I perceiving, said, nay, Madam, be not dis-
comforted, though you was pleased to favour me, as
I now suppose by mistake, the last Night, with your
Love, and gave me this as a Token of the same.
This put her into a ten-times more confusion, so
that I was forced to use many Arguments and en-
dearing Expressions, with Protestations of an eternal
Concealment, to prevent her from Swooning; to
which, when she had a little recovered herself from
the Amaze she was in, she replied, she had been
mistaken indeed, but hoped I was so much a Gen-
tleman, as not only to pardon her frailty, but like-
wise to conceal what proceeded through an excess
of Love to one that should have been her Husband;
yet for the Present she had made, though by a strange
mistake, she hoped I would take it in good part;
and intreated me, as I tender'd the joy and tran-
quility of true Lovers, to attempt nothing further in
this kind, which, with some regret, I promised to
observe, and so adding to her former bounty a Ring
of considerable Value, her Husband coming in at that
instant, she retired, and I departed with my Stuff.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

He has many Tricks put upon him in France which makes him return for England, and there he is imprisoned. The Trick he put upon the Keeper, and escaped.

MAny misfortunes I heard of made me cautious of *French* Sharpers, yet I could not so well manage my Affairs, but they were too hard for me, which made me not a little wonder; however I bore it patiently, as knowing I had been a great deceiver myself, but being now like a Fish, out of my Element, had almost lost my dexterity; for walking one Night late, in the search of Adventures, I was caught in the Trap, in this manner. Two Fellows seiz'd upon me, and without any attempt to rifle me, forced open my Mouth and put a Piece of Iron, in the form of a Pear, into it, termed amongst them, as I since understood, a Choak-pear, and clapping a small Key into it, turning the Wards in the Cavity, when by sundry Springs, the Joints unloosing it swelled so that my Mouth being stretched with it I could neither speak nor receive any Nutriment; when on a sudden, putting a Note into my hand, they left me, so that going home I stood upon my entrance like Mum-chance, which made my Companions who knew the Trick was usual, laugh in Abundance; when opening the Note the substance of it was that I should bring then ten Crowns the next Evening, and they would release me of the incommodity that I must otherwise endure: upon this I resolved not to gratify them in their demands, and therefore consulted divers Smiths to take it out, but they assured me it was case hardened and

no File could touch it; and withal told me there was no other way than to comply with their unreasonable Demands; when seeing no other remedy, I found myself obliged to do it, and was taken in the Manner as I formerly mentioned, and in the same manner discharged, which made me think of leaving the Country, as being almost mad to find myself out witted: but my Compaions encouraging me to try further Adventures, advised me to be more cautious, and not to walk the By-ways, which Advice I carefully observed.

These Discouragements confirmed me that there was no good to be done in those Parts, and therefore I concluded to repass the Seas, intimating as much to my Companion, laying before him great Advantages, insomuch that, his Stock growing low, he hearkened to my advice. But scarce was I re-enter'd *London*, but I was espyed by one of my Creditors, who lodging me in a House, immediately Napp'd me for fifty Pounds, whereupon I was obliged to turn myself over to the *Fleet*; yet not intending to stay long there, I went in Term time abroad upon a Rule with my Keeper, resolving not to return with him; so that carrying him from place to place, I supposed to have made him drunk, but he regarding his Charge appeared more cautious; whereupon I was obliged to invent another stratagem, and so pretending to be Trimmed, I went into a Barber's shop, and indeed suffered myself so to be used; and when I had quitted the Chair desired my Keeper to sit down, telling him I would pay for his Trimming, and whilst the Barber was preparing for him, I held him in a pleasant Discourse, but no sooner did he begin to be-slubber him, but I marched out, the Barber not suspecting me to be a Prisoner; when on a sudden my Keeper, not hearing me talk, opened his Eyes, though to his great pain, and perceiving I was gone,

up

up he started with the Froth on his Face, and over-throwing Cut-beard and Bason, ran out with a Napkin on his Head, and a Cloth on his Shoulders, gazing about him as if he had been distracted, nor was the Barber slow in following him with his Razor in his Hand, crying, stop him, stop him; but he minding more his staring about than running outright, as knowing I must have absconded myself in some odd nook, or corner, was in the End over-taken; and though he offered to give a reason for what he had done, yet the Barber would hear none, but not only made him pay six pence, tho' he was not Trimmed, but gave him a Buffet or two, for a parting remembrance, &c.

Being once more at large, I betook me to the Country, and perceiving that the Mountebanks got great store of Money, and were much in esteem, thinking that a safer way to subsist, than to venture Hanging for a livelihood, I procured all manner of necessary Trinkets, and being furnished with a little Latin and much Cant, I set up for a very *Galen*, and happening to be very fortunate in curing the Belly-ach, or healing a Cut-finger, I was soon cried up by the Ignorant, especially the old Women, for a great Proficient: when a young got-headed Blade who had married a beautiful Gentlewoman, and without any cause, was infected with the Plague of Jealousy, came to me, and desired to speak with me in private, telling me he had Business of great importance to discover, that in bringing it about required my Assistance; and I retired with him into my Closet, and there, having conjured me to be secret, he told me his Disease, and added, that nothing but a Dose of Poison for his Wife and her Gallant, could any way remedy the Fever of his Mind; and if I would help him to an effectual Cordial that would send them into the other World, or a Purge that would purge them out of this, whether to Heaven or Hell.

Hell he matter'd not, I should be gratified even to excess: at this, and stedfastly beholding the wildness of his Looks, I was not a little amazed, yet proceeded to divert him from it, by laying before him the danger that attended it here and the horror hereafter; but finding him fixed and immoveable in his Resolution, obliging him to eternal silence and concealment, as to myself I told him for ten Pieces I would furnish him with a sure Passport to Eternity. And this being agreed on, I ground a considerable quantity of Gum-Sandricks, which I gave him to understand was Arsnick, the mortallest of Banes, at which he seemed much satisfied; and withal I directed him to put it into a Flask of Wine, and then use his discretion to drink to them, or give it as he saw convenient; for I further found by him that he was resolved to bear them Company; and this I did to prevent his going to another, of whom perhaps he might have what he supposed this to be, and thereupon he departed, seeming outwardly very kind to his Wife, and desiring that all differences for the future might be composed, which made not only her but her Friends greatly to rejoice; and that his good Affection as he pretended, might be more confirmed, he caused a Feast to be prepared, and invited amongst others the suspected Gentleman; and so exceeding merrily they were, to the great satisfaction of all present; and when the Cloth was taken away, he caused the Flask to be fetched, and filling out a Glass, drank to the prosperity of him and his Wife, who gladly pledged him; and then he ordered her to drink to the suspected Gentleman, which with some unwillingness, pressed by his commands, she did, and was, no doubt, sincerely pledged; but whilst the Gentleman was about to fill to the next, he snatched away the Flask, saying, hold, it is enough, it shall go no further; and whilst the Guests were admiring at his unexpected behaviour,

viour, he cryed out, Now have we fairly ended all Differences on Earth, come, come, to your Prayers, for a prosperous Journey, for our time is but short : This put the whole Company into a great Consternation, so that fear wrought every where almost the effects of Death itself, and his Words being plain enough to ground suspicion of Poison on, some were dispatched for Antidotes, and others ran up and down not knowing what they did, nor what to do. But in the End, being sent for, I came, where I found the poor Gentlewoman and her Friend on their Knees offering up, as they supposed, their last Petitions to Heaven : and Husband, said the Lady, I freely forgive you all your hard suspicions, though I ever loved you too well to injure you in any wise ; and as these are the last words of a dying Wife, whom you have unkindly murdered, I am Chast and Innocent in what you suspected, as are the thoughts of new born Babes. And much to the same purpose her supposed Amourist made his Confession, clearing the Gentlewoman of what had been objected against her ; which made our Desperado stand confounded, fixing his Eyes on the Earth ; but he no sooner perceived me to enter, but he cryed out seize that Villain, he it was that furnished me with materials to perpetrate this horrid Villany, thus to destroy, together with myself, those that I now believe to be innocent. And by this time, Conceit had so wrought on all three, that although I could not choose but laugh to myself, yet I found it no time to trifle, least the effects of fear should turn that into a Tragedy, that was indeed no other than a Comedy, and thereupon I opened the whole matter, which so deeply amazed them, that for some time though they confessed they felt no pain nor alteration, they could not give credit to my words ; but in the End they did, by which means the Gentleman's Jealousy was not only removed, but an intire Love and solid Friendship ensued.

C H A P. XXIII.

He is overtaken with Sickness in the midst of his Cogitations; and being worn out with restless Toil, betakes himself to a strict Reservedness, in order for a Preparation for Death, contemplating his future State.

THis undertaking agreed not, however profitable it was, with my Constitution, for though much wickedness attended it in sundry ways and manners, especially in the preying upon the Lives of the miserable, I counted it too mean a matter so tamely to destroy; and indeed, in the whole Course of my villainous Actions and Enterprises, having had an Antipathy against those walking Contagions, who sweep like a destroying Pestilence, I cast sundry things in my mind, sometimes I bethought me of taking myself again to the Padding Trade, at other times I thought it time to take up and be serious, concluding to throw myself into some settlement, that I might the more comfortably spend the remainder of my Days. Whilst these things (I say) ran strangely in my thoughts, a more than ordinary melancholy seized me, which was succeeded by a lingering Disease, and now ceasing from the hurry of my impious Affairs, my Conscience began to open the Volume, that had so long been shut, turning over leaf by leaf the Actions of my Life; so that now being sensibly touched, they methought, which before had seemed pleasant, stood before me in their horrid and ghastly Forms, each crying loud as the Blood of *Abel* for vengeance against me; and considering I had an immortal Soul, and that divine Vengeance for the least of my many Crimes, might justly sink me into everlasting

verlasting flames, there to be tormented in endless Burnings to Eternity: smitten with remorse, I cried out with *St. Austin*, *With what Companions have I trod the Streets of Babylon!* how have I squandered the precious Moments, and employed them in all manner of injury and violence, that were allowed me to barter with Heaven for Life and Immortality! leaving myself, after so much restless toil and fruitless labour, in the Gall of Bitterness, finding at last all the Pleasures of this World, but an empty airy Vanity, seeming Clouds without Rain, insatuating Fires that lead us astray in the Paths of Ruin and Desolation. And now expecting in a short time, my Dissolution, it is my earnest request, That all Persons, of whatsoever Age or Sex, would be warned by my many Misfortunes, and what may yet remain abundantly worse behind if infinite Mercy interceed not with offended Justice, which I have infinitely provoked, to leave me miserable in the never-ending flight of an immeasurable Eternity. And now Reader, concluding the History of my Life and drawing near my Tomb, I thought good to leave this Epitaph to be affixed thereon.

E P I T A P H.

*Within this Tomb a wretched Man do's lye,
 Whose chiefest Glory was in Villany:
 A restless Life he lived, all Fortunes try'd;
 And monstrously both Heaven and Earth def'd,
 Triumph'd o'er Virtue, Vice was all his Pride.
 Striving in nothing more than to excell,
 In Wickedness, and tread the Paths of Hell:
 Yet seeing all was vanity at last,
 Turn'd Penitent, and much bewail'd each Crime:
 Himself into the Arms of Mercy cast,
 And is lay'd up unto the End of Time.*

4 AUG 64
 FINIS.